

SUWANU: SUSTAINABLE WATER TREATMENT AND NUTRIENT REUSE OPTIONS

Agricultural practices exert great pressure on fresh water sources for irrigation (55% of the water used in Europe) and on the use of fertilisers. European farmers are facing serious problems, such as a scarcity of fresh water and the availability of nutrients, extreme climatic conditions and increasing demands made by a growing population. All of this leads to an increase in mineral fertiliser and fresh food prices, the taking of risky measures like applying untreated wastewater in fields and environmental damage due to the overexploitation of resources.

In this regard, this project's main aim is to develop technologies focused on alleviating these problems by offering a transnational cooperation service through "research clusters" comprised of universities, regional authorities, research centres, technology developers, companies, farmers and agricultural associations from five different countries: Germany, Spain, Greece, Malta and Bulgaria.



THE MAIN AIM OF THE SUWANU PROJECT IS TO SUPPORT COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION BETWEEN FIVE CLUSTERS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Furthermore, this project will provide and facilitate the interchange of know-how about alternatives for the efficient sustainable use of water and its nutrients. It will also open up business opportunities in the area of interest, while at the same time offer solutions to the above-mentioned problems Europe is facing.



OBJECTIVES

- Support cooperation and integration between the five clusters in order to improve technology research and development.
- Develop a European-wide joint action plan and market research to drive forward the economic development of wastewater reuse in the agricultural sector.
- Coordinate research centres, regional authorities, companies and associations in order to adopt an integrated proactive approach to wastewater and the reuse of nutrients.
- Strengthen the research potential of European regions to encourage the development of regional groups.
- Strengthen the European agricultural sector and create business opportunities between SMEs, associations and research centres.
- Create public-private partnerships (PPP) between authorities and SMEs (farmers and technology companies) for joint investments in sustainability and efficient resource management technologies.

RESULTS EXPECTED

- A 50% reduction in farmers' irrigation water and fertiliser costs and a 20% reduction in the current pressure on the use of fresh water in Europe.
- Development of sustainable irrigation systems that allow for agricultural production in European regions suffering from a scarcity of water and a reduction in the negative environmental impact resulting from the inappropriate use of wastewater.
- Increase in the stability of market prices of food exports thanks to food safety.
- Increase in the levels of water management and wastewater reuse know-how, acceptance and practices.
- Support SMEs in the application of effective innovative solutions for wastewater treatment and reuse.

PROJECT DATA

Web: <http://www.suwanu.eu/es>
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 Contract n°: 319998
 More info: CORDIS-SuWaNu

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