

The Nutrient Platform, consisting of 33 organisations



The Dutch Nutrient Platform cooperates on a national level throughout the phosphorus value chain and between parts of the ‘triple helix’ (businesses, knowledge institutes, governments and NGOs).

Our goal is to create a sustainable market within 2 years, in which as many reusable phosphorus streams as possible will be returned into the cycle in an environment-friendly way and where recycled phosphorus will be exported to the fullest extent possible.

The Dutch have a surplus of nutrients. We import nutrients in different forms such as food, animal feed and ores and are using fewer and fewer primary phosphate fertilizers and feed additives in the agricultural sector partly because of stringent European directives and innovation. Over the coming years this surplus is expected to increase significantly because import of biomass is expected to increase (feed, food, non food). The costs of dealing with these nutrients for Dutch society are significant. This situation exists even though elsewhere in the world there is a growing need for nutrients (fertilizers and soil improvers) due to the expanding world population, the growth of emerging economies, the declining quality of soil, diet changes, ageing and urbanization.

Utilizing specific residual organic flows in the Dutch economy as a source of phosphorus will make it possible to produce exportable products of good quality and thus create a sustainable market. This will enable the Netherlands to concentrate, scale up, increase the value of, and export green recycled flows of residual materials that are not currently being usefully (re)used in the Netherlands.

The Dutch value chain agreement is broadly structured and embraces various residual flows of phosphate from the food industry, households (kitchen and garden waste), livestock farming (manure), water sector (wastewater, sewage sludge) to the processing industry and has a link to knowledge institutions and civil society organizations. This way forward was chosen with a view to leveraging the potential of a large and innovative export market and broadly based support.

Establishing this sustainable recycled phosphorus market is not merely a question of the right technology. Moreover, it is a matter of creating the required demand and creating more insight in supply chain and market information. It is a matter of investing in the required processing industry, in forming new partnerships and in creating a sophisticated mix of market interventions by authorities.

Organisation(s)



Dutch Farmers Organisation (LTO Nederland), Royal COSUN, Union of Waterboards (Unie van Waterschappen), Union of Water Works Companies (VEWIN & Reststoffenunie), Twence Afval en Energie BV, Van Gansewinkel, VION Ingredients, NV Slibverwerking Noord-Brabant, HVC, Thermphos International BV, ICL Fertilizers Europe, Wageningen University & Research Centre, Deltares, Nutrient Management Institute (NMI), State Secretary for Infrastructure and the Environment, Minister and State Secretary for Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, Biorenewables Business Platform, InnovatieNetwerk, WASTE, Aqua for All, Nutrient Platform, Attero, Deltares, Dutch Biorefinery Cluster, City of Amsterdam, KWR Watercycle Research Institute, Nevedi, Samenwerkingsverband Regio Eindhoven (SRE), Twence, Unesco-IHE, Wetsus, TNO

More information

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