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SPIN-FERT EU Consortium Newsletter

Welcome to SPIN-FERT's Latest News!

SPIN-FERT, funded under Horizon Europe, is paving the way for sustainable horticulture and enhanced soil health through innovative technologies and sustainable practices. This project transforms agricultural by-products into high-quality fertilizers and peat-free substrates, fostering a greener, eco-friendly approach to soil management.



Project Highlights

Innovation in Soil Health: SPIN-FERT focuses on biostimulants, agro-industrial waste utilization, and precision tools for soil analysis, including AI-supported soil assessment and lab-on-chip devices. These advancements help improve soil fertility and reduce chemical dependency in agriculture.

Collaborative Expertise: With 20 partners across Europe, SPIN-FERT promotes knowledge sharing and policy development to integrate sustainable practices into horticulture, benefiting communities and fostering ecological stewardship.

Past Events:

October 24, 2024

Conference: "Innovations in Organic Horticultural Production" – SPIN-FERT Project (Horizon Europe).

The SPIN-FERT project was presented to over 400 Polish horticultural professionals. The conference highlighted innovations like peat-free substrates, AI-driven soil analysis tools, and sustainable farming practices. An interactive exhibition, "Senses of Soil," allowed attendees to explore soil's sensory properties.



Press Conference: SPIN-FERT Project Media Briefing.

The SPIN-FERT project was introduced to the media at the National Institute of Horticultural Research (INHORT), highlighting efforts in soil health and peat-free substrate production. Presentations were made by Polish project partners, including Prof. Eligio Malusà, Prof. Joanna Hoffmann, Dr. Krzysztof Ambroziak, and Prof. Magdalena Frąć. The conference ended with a workshop linking soil scents to emotional memory. The event was covered by regional media outlets, including Polish Television (TVP3) and radio, with further publications expected in leading magazines.



September 24, 2024

Technical Day on Growing Substrates – SPIN-FERT Project Presentation.

The SPIN-FERT project was presented at the 'Technical Day on Growing Substrates' organized by the Italian Society of Horticulture (SOI) in Passariano, Italy. The presentation, by Sara Turci from Ri.Nova, focused on the development of sustainable, peat-free substrates for horticultural crops. The project aims to improve European soil health by creating alternative substrates from agricultural by-products, enriched with biostimulants.



The substrates will be tested in four countries: Italy, Poland, France, and the UK.

September 17–20, 2024

IV International Organic Fruit & II International Organic Vegetable Symposium

The 4th Organic Fruit and 2nd Organic Vegetable Symposium took place in Warsaw, organized by the Institute of Horticulture and ISHS, with over 100 experts in organic farming from around the world. The event featured presentations, discussions on organic farming's future, and cultural experiences. A SPIN-FERT workshop was organized and participants were surveyed asking their opinion about non-professionals knowledge of peat-free substrates and to experience the Memory Nexus exercise, linking substrate smell to emotions. Attendees visited also organic farms and the Institute's innovation centers, including the Centre for Sustainable Horticultural Technologies.



Skierniewice Festival of Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables – INHORT Exhibition: “Sensory Gardens” at the Prymasowski Palace

The 47th “Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables Festival” in Skierniewice attracted thousands of visitors. The event featured a special exhibition, “Sensory Gardens in the Chambers of the Primate’s Palace,” organized by INHORT to celebrate Poland’s 20th EU anniversary. Visitors explored plants through all five senses, experiencing tastes, smells, sounds, and textures.

SPIN-FERT presented “The Breath of the Earth,” a sensory display showcasing soil and substrates through scent, sound, and touch. This interactive exhibition engaged around 6,000 attendees, with activities on soil biodiversity and free samples of microbial inocula and peat-free substrates.



June 19–21, 2024

Kick-off Meeting – SPIN-FERT Project

The SPIN-FERT project was officially launched with a kick-off meeting held in Riccione, Italy. The representatives of all project partners visited research and industrial sites of RINOVA and ENOMONDO partners and discussed about the project activities, which are centered on peat-free substrates, circular economy goals, and soil protection, with sessions on project coordination and advanced soil quality tools. The event set a positive tone for future collaboration among partners and progress toward greener soil practices across Europe.



Looking Forward

SPIN-FERT continues to engage in research, collaboration, and innovation, focusing on environmentally friendly solutions for soil fertility and horticultural production. We’re committed to advancing these initiatives for a greener future!

**Join us and don’t miss the European Mission Soil Week on November 12-13, 2024.
Stay tuned for exciting updates ahead!**