

SPIN-FERT Newsletter N°3

Amplifying the SPIN-FERT Voice: Communication, Dissemination and Outreach Activities
July-December 2025

The second half of 2025 marked an exceptionally dynamic and visible phase for the **SPIN-FERT** project, characterised by intensified scientific dissemination, strong stakeholder engagement across Europe, and innovative communication formats aligned with the objectives of the **EU Mission Soil**. SPIN-FERT consortium consolidated its role as a key actor in advancing soil health, peat-free horticulture, and circular bio-based solutions, while reaching diverse audiences, including researchers, industry professionals, farmers, students, policymakers, and the wider public.

During this reporting period, SPIN-FERT partners actively contributed to a broad portfolio of **international conferences, scientific symposia, field days, exhibitions, and public events**, ensuring sustained visibility for project results and methodologies. Major milestones included strong representation at high-level scientific forums such as BAGECO 2025, EUROSIL 2025, and numerous national and international meetings dedicated to soil health, microbiomes and sustainable food systems. In parallel, the project maintained a strong public-facing presence through exhibitions, science festivals and outreach events, translating complex soil science into accessible, multisensory and participatory experiences.

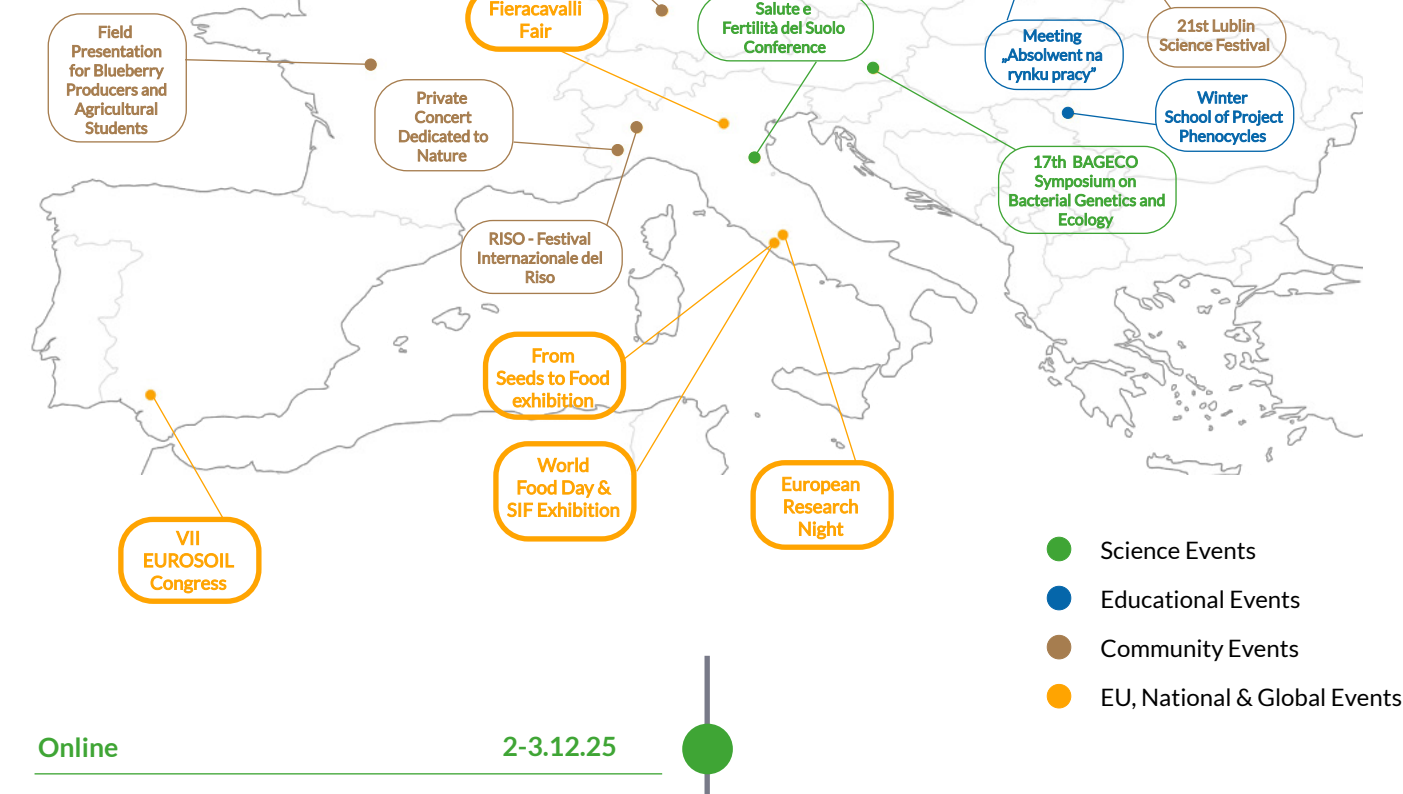
A distinctive feature of this period was the further development and dissemination of SPIN-FERT's **Art & Science dimension**, notably through the **Breath of Soil: Memory Nexus** initiative. Through exhibitions, workshops and interactive installations presented across several European countries, the project continued to demonstrate how artistic practices can enhance soil literacy, foster emotional engagement and support the democratisation of scientific knowledge. These activities significantly strengthened SPIN-FERT's societal impact and contributed to broader Mission Soil objectives.

Complementing on-site activities, the consortium expanded its digital outreach through **video animations**, including "The Hidden World Inside Seeds: A Green Revolution", online events and targeted media contributions, ensuring sustained engagement beyond physical events. Continuous **collaboration with related EU and international projects** further amplified SPIN-FERT's reach and reinforced synergies within the evolving soil health and sustainable agriculture ecosystem.

This newsletter presents selected highlights from this intensive six-month period, illustrating how SPIN-FERT continues to bridge research, practice, culture and society in support of healthy soils and resilient agri-food systems across Europe.

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.

SPIN-FERT EVENTS



● Science Events
● Educational Events
● Community Events
● EU, National & Global Events

Online 2-3.12.25

Green Christmas Session on "Photosynthetic microorganisms for sustainable development"

The fourth edition of the online Green Christmas Session brought together researchers to discuss advances in photosynthetic microorganisms for sustainable development, from molecular structures to industrial applications. EU success stories highlighted uses in green energy, bio-products, and waste valorisation, with a keynote by Prof. Tomas Morosinotto. (CNR)

Warsaw, Poland 20.11.25

Orchards & Gardens Conference

At this horticulture innovation conference, Prof. Magdalena Frac joined a panel on microbiological solutions for fertilisation and crop protection. SPIN-FERT research was also presented at an information stand with posters and outreach materials. (IAPAS)

Timisoara, Romania 13.11.25

Winter School of the Phenocycles Project

Participants explored perceptions of soil and citizen engagement through the *Breath of Soil - Memory Nexus* activity. The session led by Prof. E. Malusa demonstrated how personal soil memories can be translated into RNA-inspired "memory molecules," thereby linking art, science, and society. (INHORT)

Verona, Italy 5-8.11.25

Fieracavalli 2025

At one of Europe's largest agricultural fairs, SPIN-FERT presented *Breath of Soil - Memory Nexus*. Visitors explored soil scents and memories and evaluated composts used in peat-free substrates, supporting sensory-based compost assessment. (CREA / FASSF-ASN)

Jagiellonian University in Krakow 5.11.25

Meeting „Absolwent na rynku pracy"

SPIN-FERT engaged with final-year students at Jagiellonian University to discuss career paths, industry collaboration, and research opportunities, using the project as a real-world case study in sustainable horticulture. (INTERMAG)

Lugo, Italy 24.10.25

Salute e Fertilità del Suolo Conference

SPIN-FERT researchers Prof. E. Malusa and Dr L. Canfora delivered two scientific presentations and invited participants to experience *Breath of Soil - Memory Nexus*, encouraging reflection on soil health through sensory and participatory methods. (CREA / FASSF-ASN)

Poznan, Poland 20.10.25

Breath of Soil / Memory Nexus Workshop

Art students at the University of Arts in Poznań participated in an interdisciplinary workshop that combined soil science and artistic exploration within the SPIN-FERT/Mission Soil framework. (FASSF-ASN)

Rome, Italy 16.10.25

World Food Day 2025

SPIN-FERT contributed to World Food Day 2025, marking the 80th anniversary of the FAO and the United Nations, with its immersive sensory installation "Breath of Soil - Memory Nexus." Visitors, including the Italian Minister of Agriculture, explored the living memory of soil through scent, texture, and memory, reflecting on its emotional and ecological significance. (CREA / FASSF-ASN)

Rome, Italy 10-13.10.25

FAO Global Exhibition: From Seeds to Foods

At FAO's 80th anniversary exhibition, devoted to the traditions and innovations shaping global food systems, SPIN-FERT contributed with a participatory installation "Breath of Soil - Memory Nexus and a hands-on compost evaluation activity, linking soil health to sustainable food futures. (CREA / FASSF-ASN)

Bydgoszcz, Poland 25-26.11.25

Nursery - Managing Change Conference

At the International Conference "Nursery - Managing Change" in Bydgoszcz (25-26 Nov 2025), SPIN-FERT presented its work on peat-free and peat-reduced substrates. Discussions focused on innovative growing media, including the use of biostimulants and processed organic waste with gardeners, substrate producers, and scientists. (INHORT)

York, United Kingdom 18.11.25

AAB Roots to regenerative Agriculture Conference

SPIN-FERT was represented by a talk by Dr L. Robinson on beneficial microorganisms in commercial cropping systems, highlighting their role in improving soil health and supporting regenerative agriculture practices. (NIAB)

Online 11.11.25

"Encapsulation Technologies: Here, There, Everywhere"

The lecture was organised by the Association of Soil and Substrate Preparers for Cultivation (APTYS), bringing together Spanish substrate producers. It outlined project goals and shared first non-confidential results on the delivery technology developed by Eurecat, engaging key stakeholders from the horticulture sector. (EURECAT)

Kent, United Kingdom 5.11.25

National Fruit Show

SPIN-FERT participated in this leading horticulture event, presenting research on beneficial microbes and their application to sustainable fruit production within a circular-economy framework. (NIAB)

Poznan, Poland 3.11.25

Lecture on „RNA - Molecular Poetry"

Delivered as part of the *Microworlds of Imagination* program at the Institute of Biotechnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, this lecture by Prof. Joanna Hoffmann proposed a different approach to using RNA as a source of creative inspiration, bridging science, the humanities, and art. (FASSF-ASN)

Lublin, Poland 22.10.25

World Cafe Workshops

Organised by the Institute of Agrophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences within the LEGUMINOSE project, this event examined value chains and markets for cereal and legume crops. Scientists, farmers, advisors, and agri-food stakeholders identified challenges, opportunities, and innovation pathways for sustainable cropping systems and market development across Poland and Europe. (IA-PAS)

Cherasco, Italy 19.10.25

Private Concert Dedicated to Nature

During a nature-focused concert, participants experienced *Breath of Soil - Memory Nexus* while learning about soil degradation and the environmental impact of peat-based substrates. (CREA / FASSF-ASN)

Puławy, Poland 16.10.25

Scientific Seminar

Prof. M. Frac delivered a presentation on plant holobionts and agroecosystem microbiomes, highlighting SPIN-FERT research on sustainable cultivation strategies at the Institute of New Chemical Syntheses. (IA-PAS)

Saint-Épain, France 2.10.25

Field Presentation for Blueberry Producers

Representatives of the Association des Producteurs de Myrtilles (Blueberry Producers Association of France) visited the SPIN-FERT blueberry field trials in Saint Épain to learn about the research outcomes and sustainable horticultural practices being tested. (CTIFL)

Saint-Épain, France 30.09.25

Field Presentation for Agricultural Students

Students from Institut Agro Angers visited SPIN-FERT blueberry trials, gaining hands-on insight into sustainable practices and applied horticultural research. (CTIFL)

Kościerzyna, Poland 22-26.09.25

XXVIII Biotechnology Summer School by the Intercollegiate Faculty of Biotechnology of the University of Gdansk and Medical University of Gdansk

SPIN-FERT researchers from IA-PAS presented research on soil and plant microbiomes, demonstrating how microbial activity and carbon pathways can inform future sustainable farming strategies to participants from the Faculty of Biotechnology of the University of Gdansk and the Medical University of Gdansk. (IA-PAS)

Lublin, Poland 14.09.25

XXI Lublin Science Festival & Science Picnic

SPIN-FERT reached a broad public audience through hands-on activities that highlighted microbiomes, peat-free solutions, and sustainable horticulture. (IA-PAS)

Seville, Spain 8-12.09.25

EUROSIL Congress 2025

At EUROSIL 2025 - which gathered over 1,000 participants from 63 countries- SPIN-FERT research on sustainable biostimulant granulates attracted strong interest from scientists and industry, highlighting environmentally responsible solutions for horticulture. (EURECAT)

Kent, United Kingdom 25.08.25

STEM Event

Through Interactive workshops and an exhibition, L. Robinson introduced schoolchildren to soil health, plant microbiomes, and sustainable horticulture through age-appropriate, hands-on activities. (NIAB)

Stuttgart, Germany 5.07.25

University of Hohenheim Open Day

A smell-based quiz and memory game attracted over 130 participants of all ages to compare substrates while learning about peatland protection and sustainable alternatives in horticulture. (UHOH)

Montelibretti, Italy 30.09.25

European Researchers' Night

SPIN-FERT engaged the public with creative workshops on microfungi biodiversity (Who do you dare call "Mould?") and plant bioacoustics (Plants in Concert), highlighting the role of art and imagination in science communication. (CNR-ISB)

Jablonna, Poland 20.09.25

Science Festival "With the Palace in the Background"

In the picturesque setting of Jablonna Palace, families and visitors explored soil microbiomes and peat-free substrates through informal discussions and creative activities designed to make soil science accessible to all ages. (IA-PAS)

Vercelli, Italy 12-14.09.25

Risò - International Rice Festival

Visitors experienced *Breath of Soil - Memory Nexus*, which combines sensory soil exploration with ecological storytelling to raise awareness of soil as a living archive and to underscore a commitment to sustainable substrates. (CREA / FASSF-ASN)

Puławy, Poland 6.09.25

Microbiomes in Agroecosystems Lecture

During her lecture, Prof. Magdalena Frac presented the SPIN-FERT project's outcomes and ongoing research to scientists at the Puławy Institute of Cultivation, Fertilisation and Soil Sciences, National State Institute (IUNG-PIB). (IAPAS)

East Malling, United Kingdom 9.07.25

Fruit Focus 2025

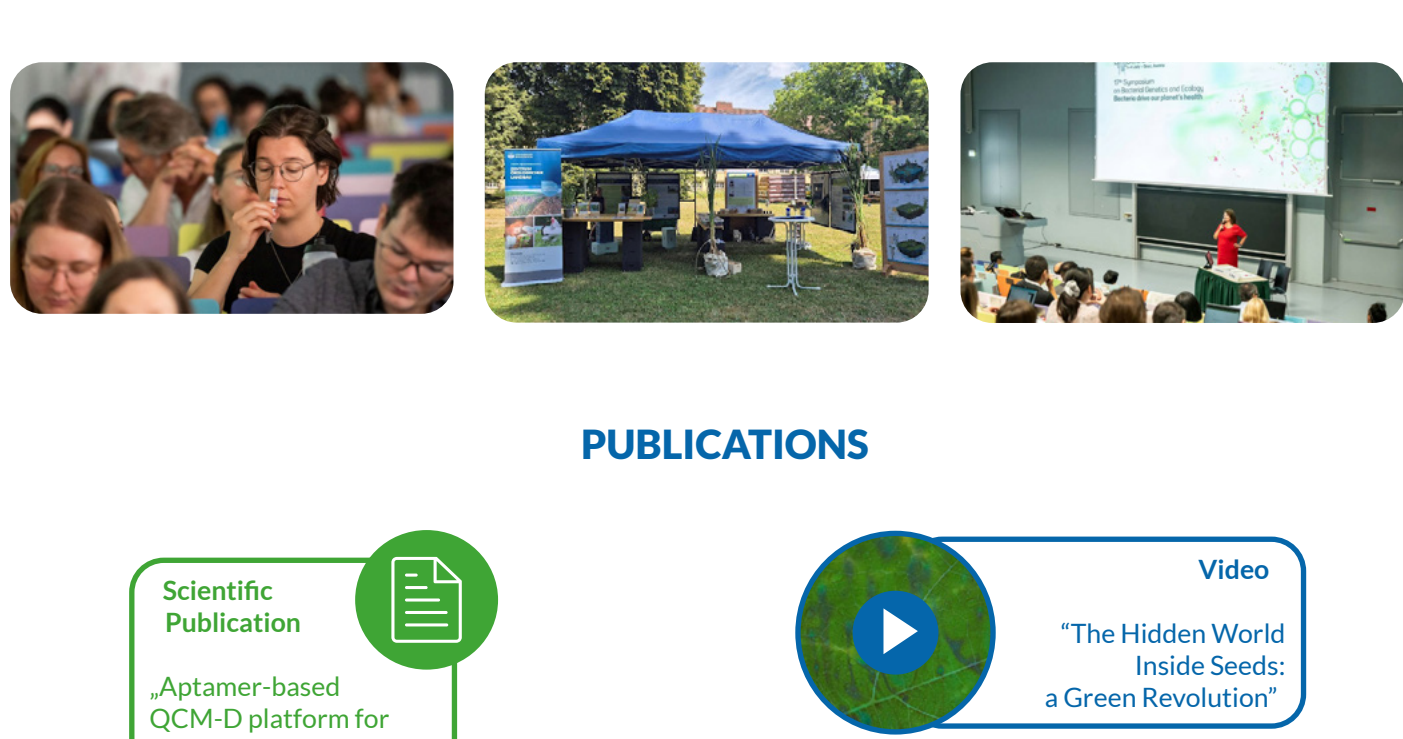
At this event, which gathered over 1,500 visitors and more than 100 product and service providers at NIAB's East Malling Research Centre, SPIN-FERT showcased peat-free substrates made from recycled coir and beneficial microbes, demonstrating practical solutions for greener horticulture. (NIAB/ReCoir)

Graz, Austria 1-4.07.25

BAGECO 2025

Under the theme "Bacteria drive our planet's health," the event brought together 230 scientists from 37 countries across six continents, fostering urgent dialogue on the connections between microbiomes, climate change, biodiversity, and human well-being.

SPIN-FERT was represented by scientists from 8 partner institutions, who contributed through presentations, participatory sessions, and informal networking, underscoring the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration for sustainable solutions. (TUG)



PUBLICATIONS

Scientific Publication

"Aptamer-based QCM-D platform for monitoring biofertilizers in soil" in Science Direct, CNR

Media Article

"The SPIN-FERT project: Soil health and peat-free growing substrates"

Video

"The Hidden World Inside Seeds: a Green Revolution"

Video

"SPIN-FERT, PLANTES lab and Biosonora Project"

Video

"SPIN-FERT & Circular Economy"

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER RELATED PROJECTS

SPIN-FERT actively collaborates with related Mission Soil initiatives, including **Hort2theFuture**, **AI4SoilHealth**, **SoilHive**, **SoilTribes**, **SOILSCAPE** and **ECHO Project**. Cooperation includes joint working groups, shared tools, mailing lists, and group activities, strengthening knowledge exchange and impact across the Mission Soil community. Learn more about: <https://spinfert.eu/related-projects/>

Hort2theFuture

AI 4 Soil Health

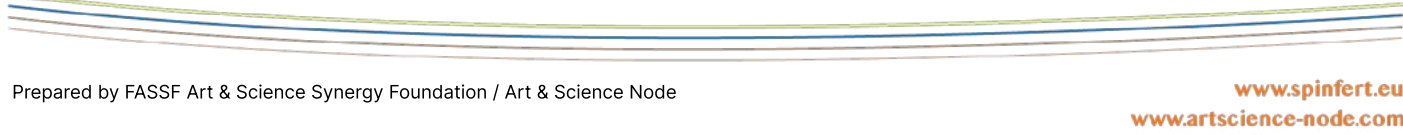
ECHO

SoilHive

SoilTribes

SOILSCAPE

SPIN-FERT CONSORTIUM



Published on January 13th 2026