

SPIN-FERT Newsletter No. 4

Amplifying the SPIN-FERT Voice: Communication, Dissemination and Outreach Activities
January-June 2026

The first half of 2026 marked a similarly dynamic and visible phase for the SPIN-FERT project, characterised by sustained scientific dissemination, broad stakeholder engagement across Europe, and continued use of innovative communication formats aligned with the objectives of the EU Mission Soil. The SPIN-FERT consortium reinforced its role as a key actor in advancing soil health, peat-free horticulture, and circular bio-based solutions, reaching diverse audiences including researchers, industry professionals, farmers, students, policymakers, and the wider public.

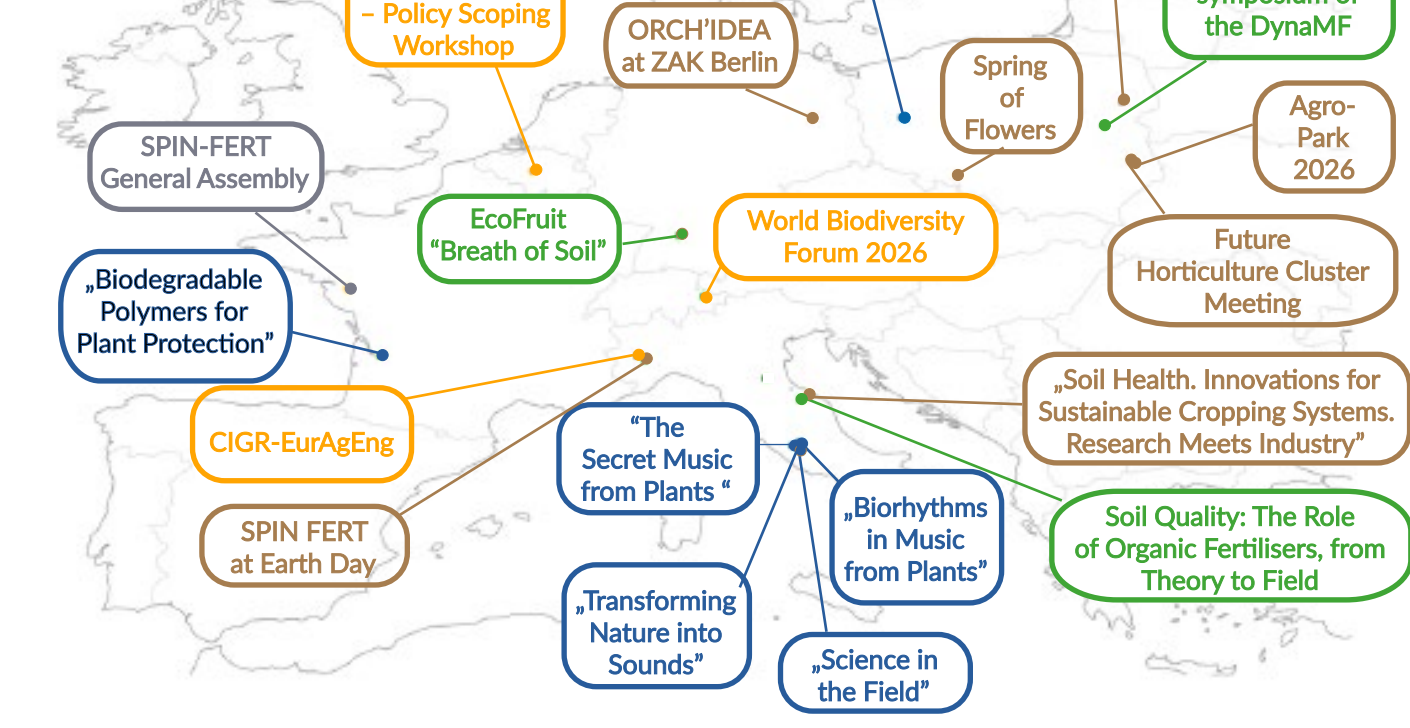
During this reporting period, SPIN-FERT partners actively contributed to a broad portfolio of **scientific symposia, policy workshops, field days, and exhibitions**, ensuring sustained visibility for project results and methodologies. Major milestones included the organization, jointly with the Hort2theFuture project, of a Policy Scoping Workshop in Brussels attended by EU Commission representatives, as well as strong representation at the World Biodiversity Forum 2026 in Davos, Agricultural Chemistry Winter School (ACWS) 2026 in Bologna, and at the inaugural symposium of the DynaMF Consortium in Warsaw. In parallel, the project maintained a strong public-facing presence through agricultural fairs, school open days, and field days across various EU countries of the SPIN-FERT consortium, translating complex soil science into accessible, hands-on experiences.

Complementing on-site activities, the consortium expanded its dissemination through targeted media contributions, including **two Open Access Government** articles alongside a **joint Policy Brief with Hort2theFuture** on the future of sustainable growing media, published in June 2026 the following the Policy Scoping workshop. Continuous collaboration with related EU projects, including Hort2theFuture, Peatless, Phenocycles, 4Sir2 and the newly launched DynaMF Consortium, further amplified SPIN-FERT's reach and reinforced synergies within the evolving soil health and sustainable agriculture ecosystem.

A distinctive feature of this period was the continued development and dissemination of SPIN-FERT's **Art & Science dimension**, notably through **the Breath of Soil – Memory Nexus** initiative, presented at Earth Day in Torino and at the World Biodiversity Forum 2026 in Davos, and through the opening of the related ORCH'IDEA installation at ZAK Berlin. 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.

This newsletter presents selected highlights from this 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.

SPIN-FERT EVENTS



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

Turin, Italy 24-26.06.26

CIGR -EurAgEng World Congress

CREA represented SPIN-FERT at the CIGR-EurAgEng 2026 World Congress, held at the Politecnico di Torino under the theme "Emerging Technologies and Innovation in Biosystems Engineering," presenting work on a "Data-Driven Chemical-Physical Soil Quality Index and Visualization Tool." (CREA)

Davos, Switzerland 14-19.06.26

World Biodiversity Forum 2026

Led by Prof. Joanna Hoffmann with a contribution from Samuel Bickel, SPIN-FERT's workshop "Breath of Soil – Memory Nexus" invited World Biodiversity Forum participants to explore soil through smell and create a "Memory Molecule," while Hoffmann also presented her VR work "Rhizone: [M-Other]" at the Forum's OASIS exhibition. (FASSF-ASN / TU Graz)

Berlin, Germany 29.05-23.08.26

ORCH'IDEA at ZAK Berlin

The immersive interactive installation ORCH'IDEA, developed within SPIN FERT by Joanna Hoffmann (FASSF-ASN) in collaboration with Andre Bartetzki (sound, light, programming) and Norberto Hernandez (programming), demonstrates how artistic research can communicate complex scientific and environmental challenges to broad public audiences. (FASSF-ASN)

Montelibretti, Italy 19.05.26

"Biorhythms in Music from Plants"

CNR-ISB contributed three activities to the "Fascination of Plants" day: Carmelo Cannarella's "Biorhythms of Music from Plants," translating plant biorhythms into music; Valerio Muzzini's session on the electrical properties of plants; and a talk by Giulia Cappelli and Denise Campagna on natural antimicrobial compounds in aromatic plants. (CNR-ISB)

Rome, Italy 28.04.26

"Science in the Field"

The CNR Research Area in Montelibretti became an open-air laboratory as students from a Roman high school took part in a hands-on scientific outreach day, working with researchers from the CNR Institute for Biological Systems (CNR-ISB) across two experimental plots (fertilised and unfertilised) planted with emmer, barley, and solina wheat. (CNR-ISB)

Szepietowo, Poland 19-21.06.26

SPIN-FERT at the 7th National Field Days

The Podlasie Agricultural Advisory Centre's 7th National Field Days brought together farmers, advisors, and the scientific community around modern and sustainable agriculture. INHORT took part by running a horticultural knowledge competition for students and workshops on soil analysis and rational fertilisation tied to SPIN-FERT activities. (INHORT)

Bordeaux, France 02.06.26

"Biodegradable Polymers for Plant Protection"

The lecture by the University of Twente to the polymer research community, outlining the group's ongoing work on biobased and biodegradable materials for plant protection and soil enhancement. The talk drew an audience of around 100. (UT)

Nantes, France 26-29.05.26

SPIN-FERT General Assembly 2026

Over three days, the SPIN-FERT consortium reviewed progress and planned next steps across all work packages, covering the development of biostimulants and peat-free substrates, demonstration of sustainable soil management practices, tools for rapid soil quality assessment, soil biodiversity and ecosystem services for policy support, communication and stakeholder engagement, and sustainability assessment of innovative products and cropping systems. (CFITL)

Łosiów, Poland 09-10.05.26

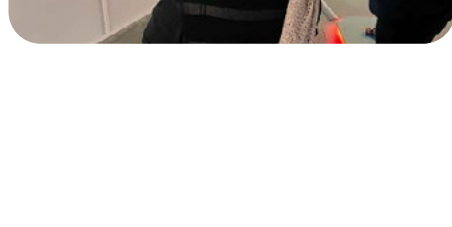
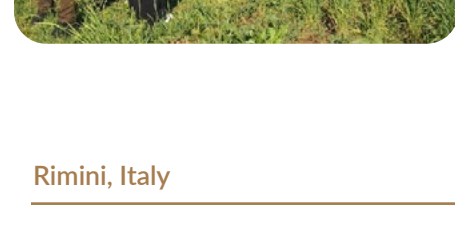
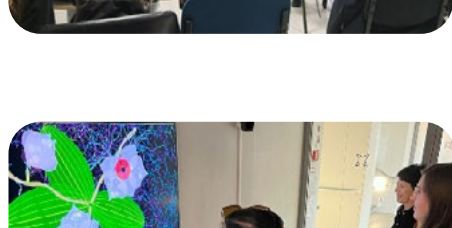
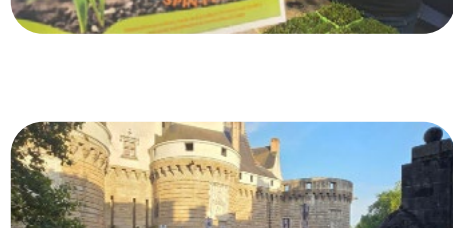
"Spring of Flowers" Horticultural Fair

INHORT took part in the "Spring of Flowers" Horticultural Fair, organized by the Opole Agricultural Advisory Center presenting the SPIN-FERT project alongside its other research and development activities. (INHORT)

Turin, Italy 25.04.26

SPIN-FERT at Earth Day in Torino

At Turin's Earth Day celebrations, SPIN-FERT presented "Breath of Soil – Memory Nexus," inviting citizens to reflect on their personal connections to soil and discussing the importance of peat-free substrates for biodiversity. (FASSF-ASN)



Rimini, Italy 22.04.26

Soil Health. Innovations for Sustainable Cropping Systems. Research Meets Industry"

At Macfrut, Ri.Nova organised a joint workshop with ENEA and CINSAn on soil health, drawing 50 participants to discuss peat-free substrates, biostimulant efficacy, and the valorisation of agri-food by-products within the DELISOIL framework. (Ri.Nova / ENEA / CINSAn)

Lublin, Poland 18.03.26

Future Horticulture Cluster Meeting

At the Institute of Agrophysics PAS in Lublin, Prof. Magdalena Frac and her team presented SPIN-FERT's objectives to stakeholders from science, industry, and innovation networks. (IAPAS)

Cesena, Italy 06.03.26

Soil Quality: The Role of Organic Fertilisers, from Theory to Field

Organised by Ri.Nova, this technical meeting in Cesena brought together technicians, researchers, and policymakers to discuss soil organic matter's role in fertility, with Eligio Malusa and Maria Grazia Tommasini presenting SPIN-FERT's soil quality index approach. (Ri.Nova / CREA / INHORT)

Brussels, Belgium 03.03.26

SPIN-FERT & Hort2theFuture – Policy Scoping Workshop

SPIN-FERT and Hort2theFuture convened a joint Policy Scoping Workshop in Brussels with EU policy experts and stakeholders, agreeing to coordinate toward a unified set of policy recommendations on peat-free substrates and biostimulants.

Rome, Italy 11.02.26

Plants in Music: "Transforming Nature into Sounds" She-nziatè – CNR-ISB Open day

Carmelo Cannarella held a "Phytoacoustics" workshop at CNR-ISB's She-nziatè Open Day in Rome, engaging around 100 lower secondary students as part of STEM Week and the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. (CNR-ISB)

Poznań, Poland 10.04.26

Future of Soil Education – when education means action

Led by Prof. Joanna Hoffmann (FASSF/ASN) and Mateusz Janik (FASSF/ASN), students from the University of Arts in Poznań visited the Museum of the Earth for a soil workshop covering soil-type, texture, and pH measurements and a participatory AR mapping demonstration. (FASSF-ASN)

Warsaw, Poland 10-11.03.26

SPIN-FERT at the inaugural symposium of the DynaMF

Prof. Magdalena Frac represented SPIN-FERT at the inaugural symposium of the DynaMF Consortium in Warsaw, joining numerous scientific institutions to discuss future collaboration and joint research initiatives. (IAPAS)

Montelibretti, Italy 03-05.03.26

"The Secret Music from Plants" at "Curious by Nature" Open Day

CNR-ISB contributed sessions on plant sounds, environmental sensors, and painting with natural colors to the "Curious by Nature" Open Day at Montelibretti, celebrating World Wildlife Day for primary school students. (CNR-ISB)

Filderstadt, Germany 24.02.26

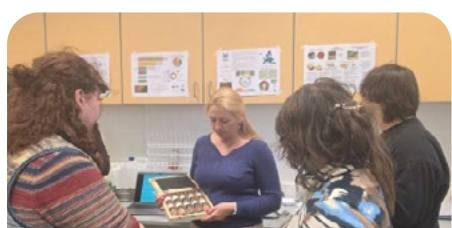
EcoFruit "Breath of Soil"

At the EcoFruit conference in Filderstadt, UHOH and INHORT presented "Breath of Soil – Memory Nexus" to around 100 researchers, scientists, and advisors, collecting memories from participants. (UHOH / INHORT)

Lublin, Poland 07-08.02.26

Agro-Park 2026

SPIN-FERT was showcased at the Agro-Park Agricultural Fair in Lublin, presenting bio-based fertilizers, peat-free substrates, and soil monitoring tools to sector leaders, researchers, and practitioners. (IAPAS)



PUBLICATIONS

Policy Brief

[„Growing Media – Towards an EU Policy Framework Fit for Purpose“](#)



Video

["Regulating Land Resources"](#)

Media Article

[„Encapsulation Technologies as Key Enablers of Climate-Resilient Agriculture“](#)



Video

["Soil Quality Index"](#)



Video

["E-NOSE/ SPIN-FERT"](#)

Media Article

[SPIN-FERT: Innovations for Soil Impact for People and Policies"](#)



Scientific Publication

[„Aptamer-based QCM-D platform for monitoring biofertilizers in soil“ in Microchemical Journal, Volume 219, December 2025](#)



SPIN-FERT CONSORTIUM



Published on July 2026