



# LIFE RecOrgFert PLUS

*Organic-mineral fertilizers by using recovered sulphur & orange wastes as sustainable soil recovery from desertification*



## PROJECT DETAILS

ACRONYM: LIFE RecOrgFert PLUS

START DATE: 01/09/2021

END DATE: 28/02/2025

TOPIC: Environment and resource efficiency

TOTAL LIFE PROJECT: 3,791,715 Euro

EU CONTRIBUTION: 1,743,850 Euro

## **FROM DRIED ORANGE PEELS TO ORGANIC FERTILIZER**

### **The European Commission allocates 1.7 million euro for pilot line of LIFE RecOrgFert PLUS Project**

LIFE RecOrgFert PLUS started in September 2021 and lasts 42 months. It is funded by the European Union under the LIFE Programme with more than 1.7 million of euro, and it brings together 5 Partners to reach an important goal: sustainable organic-mineral fertilizers produced by an innovative production process.

The project implements an innovative pilot production process converting dried orange peels and Sulphur (obtained from the desulphurization of natural gas and oil) into an organic-mineral fertilizer for a sustainable recovery of soils, an eco-friendly agriculture, while reducing Sulphur gas emission in the atmosphere.

The project gives evidence of a circular economy business model for the recycling of the local waste and supporting SBS Steel Belt Systems SRL as medium-size innovative enterprise with 2 plants: one in Varese (North of Milan, Italy) and the second in Messina (Sicily, Italy).

The organic-mineral fertilizers produced with this process are used to reverse the desertification: decreasing pH and re-introducing organic matter in the soil. These fertilizers are a sustainable substitute of chemical fertilizers.

LIFE RecOrgFert PLUS addresses the “Thematic priorities for Resource Efficiency, including soil and forests, and green and circular economy” referred to “Soil Thematic Strategy” to reverse the desertification and to prevent the use of chemical fertilizers that could pollute the soil within the priority “Thematic priorities for Air quality and emissions”.

At the end of the LIFE Project the two goals will be reached:

- 1) Testing in extended open fields the new type of fertilizer: 27 hectares for vegetables and durum wheat,
- 2) Develop, manufacture, and install the scalable and modular industrial pilot line with continuous process production.

The Consortium is coordinated by SBS Steel Belt Systems SRL - an engineering and production company specialized in the design and manufacturing of steel belt systems for continuous industrial processes - and other 4 entities: 2 Companies (F.lli Branca and Zolfital), one Agricultural Farm & School (The American Farm School Post-Secondary and Training Association in Greece) and the Università Mediterranea degli Studi di Reggio Calabria (Agricultural Faculty).

Each partner has a specific role in the project: SBS acts as a coordinator to implement a continuous pilot plant for the production of the organic-mineral fertilizer and also to define the impact assessment and the commercial exploitation. Zolfital and F.lli Branca contributes with the raw materials, respectively Sulphur and dried powder from dried orange peels. The American Farm School and the University contributes respectively for the execution of extended field tests in Thessaloniki (Greece), and for the scientific testing & analysis of the new organic-fertilizer and chemical/biochemical analyses on treated soils with the consequent characterization and certification of the new fertilizer.

### **PROJECT COORDINATOR**

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