EIP-AGRI practice abstract

Short title:

Compost from green waste and pre-digested vegetable, fruit and garden wastes by "IOK Afvalbeheer" process

Summary:

VFG-compost from intermunicipal IOK's pre-fermentation + composting is a stabilised and hygienised soil improver (25,000 T/year). This compost closes the material cycle: VFG waste – vegetable, food and garden waste (including animal based kitchen waste) – is transformed into a carbon and nutrient-rich soil improver which can replenish the farmers' soils. The IOK process and end product is unique because it increases soil fertility in times of decreasing organic carbon levels in agricultural parcels and because the process also recovers energy: biogas in cogeneration and biomethane in the natural gas grid. The footprint of this VFG compost is therefore - in accordance with Vlaco's CO2 tool - negative. IOK's VFG compost has the Vlaco quality label (strictest requirements in the EU) and contains on average 22% organic carbon (dm) and various nutrients: 2% N (dm), 1% P2O5 (dm), 1,45% K2O (dm), CaO, etc. The compost is free of pathogens and weed seeds, and is sieved and inspected on visual contaminants. VFG compost is therefore a multi-nutrient soil improver with slow-acting fertilisation (N & P) – in the long term max 40% for N - which also prevents nutrient leaching. The price is usually 2 to 12€/tonne. In order to support the soil organic matter without exceeding the phosphorus standards, an average of 10 to 15 tonnes of VFG compost/ha can be applied annually in the Flemish context, as a guideline - thereby covering part of the N-fertilisation. Compost equally increases water retention capacity and thereby decreases vulnerability to erosion and droughts.

For more information: https://nutriman.net/farmer-platform/product/id_272

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 818470