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Bio-based and biodegradable delivery systems for fertilising products to reduce microplastics pollution & promote soil health

European Commission

The presence of microplastics in soil has been reported to alter soil organic matter content, pH, electrical conductivity, and organic carbon storage. It is estimated that 8,000 tonnes of polymers are used annually in the EU in polymer-coated fertilisers (PCF). PCF can be used as additives to improve the physical properties of fertilisers or to produce slow/controlled release fertilisers (SRF/CRF). CRFs help synchronise nutrient release according to crop needs, increasing efficiency and reducing losses to the environment. Non-biodegradable plastics accumulate in the ecosystem, can be assimilated by animals and can be ultimately consumed as food by humans. Each year, around 42,000 tonnes of microplastics end up in the environment. Polymer-coated fertilisers have been identified by FAO as a high priority in terms of risk of microplastic release. Bio-based biodegradable polymers may be an alternative to conventional non-biodegradable plastics. However, more research is needed to develop such biodegradable delivery systems and validate them while assessing improvements associated with microplastics release prevention.

Eligibility

- Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organizations (including international European research organizations), is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not).
- Countries associated with Horizon Europe.
- Low- and middle-income countries.

The award value for this call is around EUR 3500000.

The application deadline for this call is September 18, 2025.

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Opportunity Info

157 day(s) remaining

Amount: EURO 3,500,000

Date added: 2025-04-08

Deadline: 18 Sep 25

Email:

Tel:

Contact Person:

Collaboration Required: Yes

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