

STRATUS

Advisor network for optimal fertilizers use

Press Release #4: Second Annual Consortium Meeting and General Assembly of STRATUS

One year after the partners of the STRATUS project met in Athens (Greece), they came together again, this time in Ghent (Belgium), for the project's second Annual Consortium Meeting and General Assembly. During the meeting, partners reviewed the status of the project, reflecting on the work carried out over the past year and outlining the path forward for the coming period.

The meeting was hosted by the Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO) at the offices of the Flemish Government in Ghent. The event lasted three days and began with a joint event bringing together STRATUS and one of its sister projects, AdvisoryNetPEST. The remaining two days focused on presentations of the work completed during the past year and on planning the activities for the year ahead.

On January 21st at 9:00, members of both STRATUS and AdvisoryNetPEST met at the VAC Building, near Sint-Pieters Station. Following a welcome and an overview of the day's agenda, participants introduced their roles within their respective projects with the aim of identifying potential synergies. This was followed by detailed presentations of both projects, with time allocated for questions and discussion.

At 10:30, a webinar on Holistic Agroecological Approaches took place. The webinar included five sessions, each led by experts in different areas of agroecology. The session concluded with a presentation of the AdvisoryAgriHub platform, developed jointly by five EU-funded advisory projects, including STRATUS and AdvisoryNetPEST, and designed to become a central hub for agriculture and forestry advisors.

On the second and third days, STRATUS partners met to discuss the project's progress in detail. The second day opened with an overview of project management and coordination presented by the lead partner, INTIA, followed by an in-depth analysis of the very positive feedback received during the first reporting period review. This was followed by presentations of Work Packages 1 and 2, focusing on network creation and sustainability (INTIA) and on knowledge gathering and the development of a platform for knowledge exchange and sharing (AUA), respectively. Each presentation was followed by an interactive workshop aimed at identifying ways to further strengthen the implementation of the respective activities. The final session of the day was dedicated to Work Package 3, which focuses on the systemic feasibility assessment of practices identified within the project, and included a workshop to refine and improve the feasibility assessment process.

On the third and final day, partners discussed progress on Work Package 4, related to knowledge transfer and exchange, and Work Package 6, focused on communication, dissemination, and exploitation of the project and its results. This marked the conclusion of the annual meeting, which was widely regarded as a success. In addition to providing a comprehensive overview of the work completed so far, the meeting helped ensure alignment on upcoming activities and strengthened

collaboration across the consortium. Just as importantly, it offered partners the opportunity to deepen professional relationships that will support the successful completion of the project.

STRATUS is an EU funded 60-month project that aims to connect advisors across Europe for accelerating knowledge creation and sharing on Integrated Fertilization Management, supporting farmers to bring this knowledge into practice to achieve the ambition of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, thus reducing nutrient losses to the environment while maintaining soil fertility.

