

Practice Abstract #24

Collaboration between Horizon multi-actor projects and Operational Groups

Horizon projects and Operational Groups do not know of each other's existence. How can they cooperate better?

In the Netherlands, more than 50 Operational Groups are active in the field of mineral cycles. Participants in the groups work enthusiastically on their specific challenges, but they hardly know what other OGs, Dutch, and European research projects are doing. However, all projects have set themselves the goal of sharing knowledge.

How do you do that together?

A number of key people have gathered, from:

- Netherlands Centre for Manure Valuation (NCM): cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Dutch Farmers' Organisation LTO, and the animal feed and manure processing industry;
- Zuidelijke Land en Tuinbouw Organisatie;
- Regiebureau POP, the National Contact Point;
- Wageningen Environmental Research and Wageningen Communication Services;
- Groen Kennisnet (GKN).

They represent:

- 2 H2020 projects, in Nutri2Cycle Multi Actor Approach project it is the fulfillment of a National Task Force minerals and in NUTRIMAN Thematic Network communication on circular fertilizers;
- A number of Top Sector projects, carried out by Wageningen Research;
- 48 Operational Groups in the field of Manure Valorisation, Regional Nutrient Cycle, and Residual Flows.

For all parties involved, the cooperation is an extra effort, which is not in their list of deliverables. Why do they do it anyway?

To prevent things from happening twice; to ensure that the communication fits in with the busy meeting agendas of farmers and because they enjoy working together.

Cooperation stems from and leads to friendship.

