CropProt

From farmer to consumer: low footprint solutions for the Plant Protein Chain

What challenge or problem are you addressing? What is the need for the project?

Currently, high volumes of nutrients and proteins are imported to the EU, causing nutrient overload in water and soil resources. A shift in human nutrition to a more plant protein based diet is recommended by researchers and envisioned by policy makers. More sustainable, plant based, EU-grown alternatives are evolving. However, this development also carries environmental risks: protein crops, if not carefully managed in the field, can lead to increased nutrient (N) emissions to water and air.

Objective of the project:

With this project, we aim to minimize the environmental footprint of plant-based protein for human consumption (focus on the in-field management to avoid emission to air and water).

Why do you need transnational cooperation?

Plant protein consumer demand is evolving in all countries ⟶ emission risk = common challenge

To find and implement the "lowest emission" spatial allocation of crop cultivation and food processing at NWE territory scale is part of project goal

Different experience + knowledge (Germany: high research effort in past years, innovative SMEs with different strategies in several countries)

Types of partners:

Farmers (organizations), farmers' consultants for fertilization + farm economics, food processors of plant protein sectors, local/ regional authorities in charge of water and soil quality

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