



Press Release

Thessaloniki, October 2020

Launch of the “AgroFossilFree” project: Strategies and technologies to achieve a European Fossil-energy-free agriculture

Global agriculture mainly relies on fossil resources for covering most of its energy needs and supporting agricultural productivity in both open-field crop production and controlled environment agricultural constructions. The high fossil fuel use and the deterioration of natural carbon sinks have been related with the anthropogenic impact causing climate change. Novel technologies and strategies related to more sustainable energy production and use have been developed by industry and research entities. However, in the agricultural sector there is still an important gap between such developments and the actual adoption and use of the available tools and practices by the EU farmers, especially for this large number of small and medium producers with limited access to information.

To tackle this issue, the **AgroFossilFree project** was launched in October 2020 by the **Centre for Research and Technology–Hellas (CERTH)**, project Coordinator, together with 15 other partners from 8 EU countries (IR, NL, DE, DK, PL, ES, IT and EL), with the aim of creating a framework under which critical stakeholders will cooperate to evaluate and promote the currently available **Fossil-Energy-Free Technologies and Strategies (FEFTS)** in EU agriculture. The **AgroFossilFree project** will contribute to the **High Level EU Strategies** (i.e. [EU Green Deal](#) and [Farm to Fork strategy](#)) as it aims to **decrease the use of fossil energy** in any farming process from cradle-to-farm gate, while maintaining yield and quality of the end-product. It will also contribute in closing the gap between the available FEFTS with the everyday EU agricultural practices by promoting **effective exchange** of novel ideas and information between research, industry, extension and the farming community.

The **AgroFossilFree project**, a 3-year collaborative **Coordination and Support Action (CSA)** funded with **2 million €** by the EU in the frame of the **Horizon 2020 programme**, will evaluate the current status in EU agriculture regarding energy use and assess existing needs, allowing farmers to optimize agricultural production through more efficient energy use and reduced GHG emissions, resulting in economic, agronomic and environmental benefits. It will specifically create an **AgEnergy Platform** containing all available FEFTS and a **Decision Support Toolkit** to propose interventions and financing tools based on user inputs. The project will also create **policy recommendations** and communicate them to increase visibility and promote the proposed

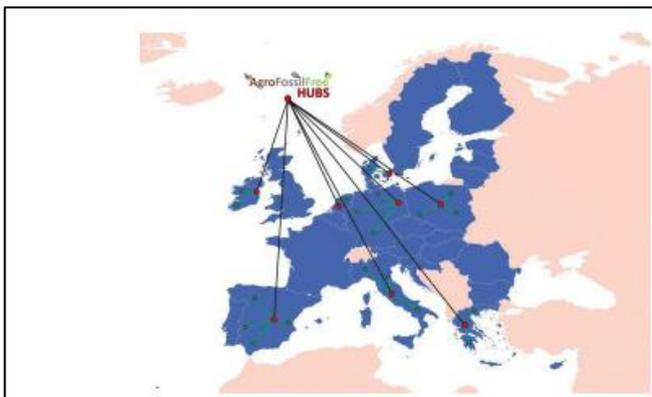


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strategies and technologies. **Financing opportunities** for de-fossilizing EU agriculture will also be investigated and highlighted.

AgroFossilFree is based on a “**Multi Actor Approach**”, including in the consortium not only scientists and researchers but also extension service providers, farmers’ organizations and industrial partners from 8 countries (**i.e. innovation “hubs”**), which ensures that the end-users of FEFTS innovations are well represented. The **diversity of cropping systems and agro-climatic zones** covered by the **innovation “hubs”** will allow exploring the adoption and applicability of a **wide range of FEFTS solutions**, while capturing a wealth of needs and innovations from end-users across Europe.



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