

MINAGRIS partners



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Keep informed

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INVESTIGATING THE EFFECTS OF MICRO- AND NANO-PLASTICS ON SOIL HEALTH IN THE UK



Introducing MINAGRIS

The MINAGRIS project will assess the impact of plastic debris in agricultural soils on biodiversity, plant productivity and ecosystem services and their transport and degradation in the environment. This research will be carried out across 11 case study countries in Europe, including in the UK.

Who are we looking for?

We would like to work with both conventional and organic farmers. We need a mixture of farmers who both use plastic-containing products (e.g., mulches, composts, bale wrap) and those who are already using alternatives (e.g., biobased).



What will participation entail?

- You will be asked to participate in 2-4 interviews and workshops over the 5 year project so we can find out more about your existing use of plastics on-farm
- Researchers will need to access 2 of your fields on a single occasion to gather soil samples and collect soil biota

Benefits of participation

- You will be the first to try out new tools, including a mobile-phone app for monitoring plastics on your farm
- You will be provided with the results of tests for micro- and nano-plastic residues in your soils and biota
- You will be given the results of the risks of micro- and nano-plastic exposure and residues on the health of the ecosystem, biota, and food quality
- You will become part of a forum where you will be invited to share your ideas and proposals for change during dedicated workshops
- You will be given tailored alternative options to help you produce food more sustainably whilst reducing reliance on plastic products.
- You will have access to guidance from scientific experts
- You will have the opportunity to contribute to industry and policy guidance

Interested in getting involved?

Please contact our case study site leader, Julie Ingram: jingram@glos.ac.uk

Expected outcomes

- Better understanding of any potentially harmful impacts of plastic debris to soil and ecosystem health
- Tools and recommendations for sustainable use of plastic in agriculture at the farm and field levels for ensuring safe and economically viable food production
- Raise relevant stakeholders' and end-users' awareness of the issue

