PRACTICE ABSTRACT

Introducing MINAGRIS

Assessing the environmental impacts of plastic debris in agricultural soils and investigating how they are transported and degraded

Who?

Researchers from 20 universities, research institutes and organisations are working in 11 case study sites across Europe. MINAGRIS is using a multi-actor approach whereby various stakeholders will be involved throughout the project. Efforts will be made to include farmers and citizens alongside policymakers, scientists, recycling firms, and other entities involved in the agricultural plastics supply chain.

The MINAGRIS team

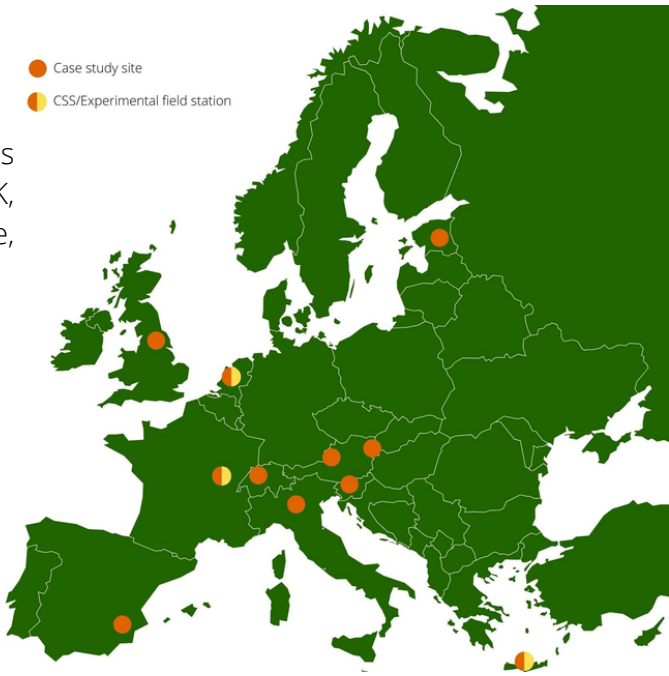
What?

Plastic use offers several benefits within agriculture but pose several threats to environmental health.

The MINAGRIS project partners are assessing the impacts of micro- and nano-plastic debris present in agricultural soils on biodiversity, plant productivity, and ecosystem services. They are also investigating how this plastic debris is transported and degraded once present in soils. Lastly, work will be undertaken to understand how plastics interact with other soil pollutants, including pesticides and pharmaceuticals and whether this exacerbates their threat to the environment. The results of MINAGRIS will provide tools and recommendations for policymakers, scientists and other stakeholders for the sustainable use of plastic in agriculture at farm and field levels. This will contribute to achieving safe and economically viable food systems in Europe.

Where?

The 11 MINAGRIS case study sites are located across Europe and include The Netherlands, Slovenia, the UK, Greece, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Spain, France, Estonia, and the Czech Republic.



When?

The project was launched during 2021 and will be completed in September 2026.

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