

Ramiran Task Group:

**Environmental friendly animal/organic waste management in the EU -
Survey of EU animal/organic waste management and related knowledge base in
environmental technologies**

Dear Ramiran member,

You might remember that during the last Ramiran conference in Bulgaria a Task Group on waste management practices and related knowledge bases was introduced.

The rationale for this Task Group is founded in the view that waste management (concentrating on the recycling of animal/organic wastes in agriculture) is part of a solution to decouple agriculture in the EU from fossil energy consumption and the use/import of mineral fertilizers: optimal use of biomass will reduce fossil energy use, emission of greenhouse gases and fertilizer application in the field. Suboptimal use may lead to increased greenhouse gas emissions as well as pollution of soil and water by nutrients, heavy metals and pathogens.

In order to exploit animal/organic wastes sustainably, the EU has to ensure that the R&D, training, extension and industry have staff that is very competent in this respect both in management and development and implementation of technological aspects of animal/organic wastes.

The success of the training and R&D programmes relies on a thorough knowledge of the “state of art” and we feel that there is a need for assessment of the training and R&D competence base and the capacity of training and R&D in animal/organic waste management throughout EU.

This survey thus intends to collect expert and statistical information about animal/organic waste management. At the same time it aims to collect your expert impression of the capacity and competences of your country’s institutions in training and research in environmentally friendly animal/ organic waste management.

The outcome of the survey will be a report summarising the situation in Europe as a whole as well as giving information about manure management in all EU countries. Further, the report will contain a recommendation for the EU commission about more reliable and in depth livestock waste surveys based on interviews and national statistic, with a view to feed this information into forthcoming EUROSTAT surveys.

We hope that you can provide us with some of the information requested on the next page, and we would like to thank you in advance for your contribution.

Best wishes

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The following information would be of interest to us:

- Existing reports, articles or statistics, on a national basis, that you or colleagues already have available on:
 - Waste arisings,
 - Treatment strategies,
 - Treatment technologies.
- Information on the existing infrastructure in academic / research organisations that deal with manure management or the recycling of organic wastes in agriculture (e.g. which university, which department, what are they main areas of expertise?).

In addition we would like to know, in your opinion:

- What are the most pressing issues to be dealt with in the short to medium term, in relation to manure/organic waste management in your country and on a European level?
- How well are the academic and research institution in your country positioned to address these issues? And, consequently ...
- What is the most urgent need for MSc and PhD training in engineering or environmental management of manure / organic waste? How much of this training is already in existence and do you see any need for development?

Finally, could you please let us know if you will you provide information in English, German or Spanish, and when can you send us the needed information?