

AFTER-BIOCHEM: ANNUAL MEETING AND BIOREFINERY VISIT

CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY | LOCAL | FLAGSHIP | AFTER-BIOCHEM PROJECT

- **AFYREN NEOXY welcomes AFTER-BIOCHEM annual meeting and organizes a visit of the industrial site**
- **An opportunity for the consortium members to share updates on the project and the plant operations**

AFTER-BIOCHEM consortium members met for their annual meeting and visited the biorefinery

Following a review meeting with the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE) management and technical experts in June, AFYREN NEOXY brought together the consortium of the project for an annual meeting, held on July 9th. The on-site meeting allowed insightful discussions about recent project updates and helped chart a course for the remaining year of the project. The visit of the biorefinery was an opportunity for the consortium members to acknowledge the concrete progress on the ground.

Recent updates on the project and the plant operations

Recent updates on each of the 8 work packages have been shared between the consortium members. Among them, we can mention:

- **First commercial deliveries of fertilizer batches to partner Terrial**

As a reminder, the potassium-rich fertilizer can be used in organic farming and is locally produced. This product contributes to the circularity of the biorefinery model

- **Successful completion of several long production cycles**

The work undertaken aiming at improving reliability of the equipment combined with the increased proficiency of teams on the downstream process enabled several long production cycles and the production and delivery of several tons of acids. Target to start-up continuous production in 2024 is confirmed.

- **Process implementation for raw material quality evaluation and certification**

This work is mainly focused on FSSC22000, GMP+, Kosher, Halal, ISCC+ certifications and frameworks.

- **Collaboration with SUEZ to test and select more substrates for the biorefinery process**

Project aims to create value from organic waste and evaluate the possibilities of raw materials diversification.

Upcoming challenges: continuous production of the plant and products performance

The discussions focused on leveraging the extended project timeline to further optimize the plant during the production phases and to ensure consistent output on the bio-based acids specifications. Several action points have been identified for the coming years, as for example

- Finalizing work of Work Packages requiring industrial quantities of biobased acids manufactured in the biorefinery
- Updating the sustainability assessments methodology and calculation

AFTER-BIOCHEM is a tangible example of how EU is contributing to the development of more sustainable industrial value chains, helping to create new jobs and reducing dependence on fossil resources. The total support of EU to AFTER-BIOCHEM (through the CBE JU) reaches €16 million over the past four years, of which 90% was directly invested in the biorefinery.

Nicolas Sordet, CEO of AFYREN, commented: *"It was a real pleasure to have our partners from AFTERBIOCHEM on our site yesterday. The bioeconomy development requires mobilization of the whole value chain, and the consortium is a fantastic tool to accelerate the emergence of such biorefineries. We are proud to lead such a project and very grateful to Europe and CBE-JU for their support."*



ABOUT AFTER-BIOCHEM

AFTER-BIOCHEM is a unique opportunity to turn agricultural processing co-products into new product streams. The project core technology is based on 10 years of R&D at AFYREN. The technology can turn biomass into high added-value and natural products using its all-in-one cutting edge fermentation process based on natural micro-organisms (100% GMO-free process and products). The project will also implement a "zero waste" strategy based on an optimized production process; all the fermentation outputs are valorized into valuable products: seven organic acids and one mineral co-product that can be used respectively as ingredients and fertilizer. The bio-based and natural compounds will have applications in various markets such as food and feed, fragrances and flavors, personal care, pharmaceuticals, and industrial chemicals.

12 European project partners

4 SMEs:



7 large companies:



1 innovation cluster:



Duration: 60 months (From May 2020 to April 2025) | Total budget: €20 million | Total cost: €33 million

AFTER-BIOCHEM has been granted €20 million funding from the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) under grant agreement No 887432. The JU receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the Bio Based Industries Consortium.

AFTER-BIOCHEM website: <https://after-biochem.eu/>

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