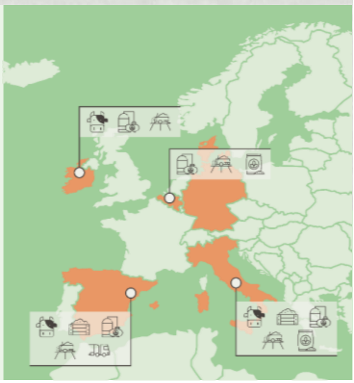
NUTRI•KNOW

Exchanging easy-to-understand nutrient management knowledge with farmers

NUTRI-KNOW aims to improve nutrient management practices in agriculture by establishing an ongoing cycle of knowledge exchange for the benefit of both farmers and the environment.



Biorefinery Glas

Small-Scale Farmer-led Green Biorefineries

Biorefinery Glas focuses on the demonstration of a small-scale grass biorefinery with farmers in South West Ireland to diversify farmer produce while resolving significant challenges in traditional agriculture.

Mobile Biorefineries

The feedstock scale required for integration with anaerobic digestion may not be achievable.

Alternative Approach

Using nutrients that remain in the whey following refining and allowing these to be recirculated back to the land in the form of a biofertiliser.

Field trials

Field trials were established to assess this approach, by comparing whey biofertiliser to slurry and untreated plots.

Results

- Grass whey performed comparably to cattle slurry as a grass fertiliser, with significantly greater grass growth in both plots compared to the untreated plot.
- Grass treated with whey was ‘deeper’ in colour compared with the slurry, possibly due to more chlorophyll being available, as grass whey also acts as a bio-stimulant.
- A sweet and pleasant smell was also noticed from the spreading of whey compared with the slurry.

Grass whey biofertiliser produced by the biorefinery

Funded by the European Union