SUSMEDHOUSE PARTNERS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This Project has received funding from the European Union's Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) Programme under Agreement number: [1917] [SUSMEDHOUSE] [Call 2019 Section 1 Farming IA]

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SUSMEDHOUSE

Sustainability and Competitiveness of Mediterranean Greenhouse and Intensive Horticulture

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Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
Istituto per i Sistemi Agricoli e Forestali del Mediterraneo

Italy

Biodegradable Growth Development

ISAFOM

Chemical-physical and Biological Properties

Among compost realized with Composter, those including tomato and pepper plant residues resulted the more promising for realization of peat-free growth media
Two commercial zeolites were selected for making blends with tomato and pepper compost. Two different volume to volume ratios were applied, thus resulting in 8 mixtures (Zeo-Compost) Chemical-physical and biological analyses on parameters relevant for assessing correct use in nursery are in progress for all blends. The most promising Zeo-Compost will be evaluated by means of preliminary seedlings growth tests, using target species for SusMedHouse project

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Compost production

Compost production was realized at Prima Luce farm, Eboli (SA) Italy. Tomato and pepper plant residues were mixed with wood-pruning coarsely chopped. Compost showed chemical-physical, molecular and biological features comparable to those produced in the Lab with COMPOSTER; in particular, absence of phytotoxicity, good biological stability (DRI < 500 mgO2 kgVS-1h-1) and richness in biodiversity, all features suggesting potential suppressiveness against plant pathogens.

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Compost Cultivation

Compost cultivation trials have started within the scope of the Susmedhouse project. Work package 6 Trials were conducted under the leadership of CNR-ISAFOM, the leader of Biodegradable Growth Media Development. Compost made from greenhouse waste will both recycle and be economically friendly to farmers. On March 15 - 2023, tomato, pepper and leuce plants were planted. These tests will be compared with the normal aquaculture variees, cocopeat and soil methods. The results will be shared with greenhouse companies.

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