December 19, 2024

As 2024 comes to a close, we reflect on a year of progress and collaboration in advancing sustainability within the agri-food and bio-waste sectors. Through engaging workshops and innovative partnerships, MixMatters has tackled key challenges, promoted circular economy practices, and strengthened regional networks.

Let's walk together through the year!

🛠️ Technical Milestones achieved during 2024 ✅

As we wrap up another productive year, we are excited to highlight the significant technical milestones achieved in the project:

- The design of the Decision Support.
- The testing-scale results of the Separation Unit.
- The testing-scale optimisation of the Valorisation Hub.

These accomplishments not only demonstrate the progress we've made but also reflect our commitment to driving innovation and sustainability.

🌎 Transforming Waste into Value: Spotlight on the Waste2Value Cluster

In the European Union, approximately 2.1 billion tonnes of waste are generated annually. With ambitious goals to curb landfill dependency and promote recycling, the EU is committed to transforming the waste landscape, especially for packaging materials, to support a circular economy.

In response to this, the Waste2Value Cluster appears: comprised of us, Brilian and ELLIPSE Project, the Cluster is dedicated to realising this transformation.

How? By converting diverse waste streams into high-value bio-products such as bioplastics, bio-based fertilisers, and bio-ingredients, these projects are creating resource-efficient, circular business models with an eye toward sustainability.

While we are developing a comprehensive system for the effective separation and transformation of agri-food sector bio-waste into a spectrum of valuable bio-products, ELLIPSE Project is refining processes to **convert biowaste into VFAs for sustainable PHA biopolymers**, **creating biodegradable materials for next-generation fertilisers and packaging**; and Brilian is introducing a **toolkit that integrates organisational, logistical, and sustainability insights to advance**

circularity in 10 bio-based value chains, building up scalable processes in real-world settings.

🎬 Curious about our impact? Watch our **video** to uncover how the ***Waste2Value Cluster*** is shaping the future of sustainable business models and resource efficiency!

Explore more of the Cluster's achievements in our Waste2Value dedicated page! 📥 Or you can download the factsheet here ➡️ https://lnkd.in/dJHXUsgD

📍 **Insights from La Rioja: Highlights from Our Second MixMatters Workshop**

MixMatters at

The MixMatters project recently hosted its second workshop, a key part of the series addressing bio-waste valorisation challenges. Held during ***TRANSFOODMATION 2024*** at the annual FOOD+i - Cluster Alimentario del Valle del Ebro event, the session gathered 30 stakeholders, including bio-based and agri-food companies from Northern Spain, to discuss sustainability and food valorisation.

Interactive activities highlighted market and supply chain challenges, fostering dialogue on innovation, collaboration, and policy alignment. Participants identified actionable solutions to enhance resource efficiency and support circular economy goals.

The insights gained will shape future efforts to strengthen partnerships, advocate for regulatory support, and drive sustainable bio-waste management solutions in the agri-food sector.

Collaborative Worshop - MixMatters at

🌟 Moments: What's New with MixMatters?

July 2024: Universidad de Almería Summer School. In July, MixMatters had the opportunity to participate in the University of Almería's Summer School, specifically the Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Agricultural Biomass Valorisation programme, led by experts Paco Egea and Manuel Lainez Andrés. The programme highlighted Spain's growing bioeconomy sector and the potential of Almería as a bio-based innovation hub. Engaging with thought leaders and students here made this event an inspiring experience for our team.

July 2024: Workshop in Valencia Biochemical Recovery from Waste. As part of our collaboration with the Ellipse project, our Project Coordinator was invited to present MixMatters at a workshop entitled: *Biochemical recovery from waste: "Matching diverse feedstocks for biochemical recovery: impact of their quality"*.

The workshop addressed the pressing **global challenges** of **waste management and resource scarcity** by **exploring innovative biochemical recovery strategies**

from diverse feedstocks. The abstrat of MixMatters is published (Edition University of Borås, Sweden - ISBN 978-91-89833-53-1, page 24-26), upon work from COST Action FULLRECO4US “Cross Border Transfer and Development of Sustainable Resource Recovery Strategies Towards Zero Waste”.

MixMatters at

July 2024: NANOAPP Conference in Slovenia. MixMatters was honoured to attend the **5th International Scientific Conference NANOAPP 2024** in Slovenia, where our partners from **IOS, Ltd.** contributed with two significant presentations on the future of recycling:

🌿 *Dr. Mojca Poberžnik* shared insights on “Towards Secondary Raw Materials,” a key step in sustainable development.

📄 *Dr. Žiga Zebec* explored “Recycling of Cellulose Materials,” underlining essential innovations in the field.

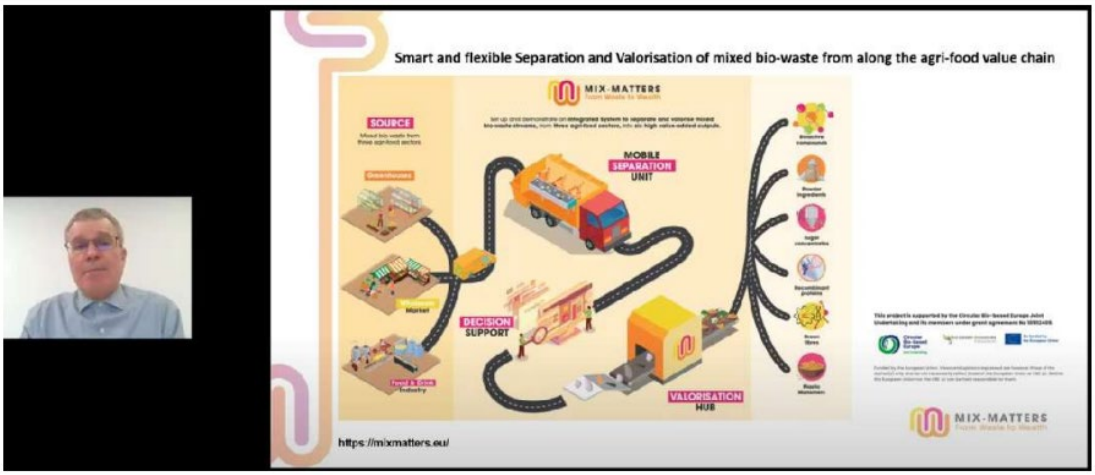
Together with **VTT**, IOS also joined a roundtable on “Recycling – Our Future,” a forward-looking discussion about sustainable practices in resource recovery.

October 2024: European Researchers' Night MixMatters was thrilled to be part of the **European Researchers' Night** at the Universidad de Almería! Engaging with students and young enthusiasts highlighted our mission to make scientific progress accessible to the next generation. Such outreach helps us build a bridge between scientific innovation and society, reinforcing the drive toward a sustainable and resilient world.

MixMatters at

November 2024: ECOMONDO Expo in Rimini Our MixMatters team had a dynamic presence at **ECOMONDO 2024** in Rimini last week. We showcased MixMatters' Integrated System, highlighting its capacity to transform mixed bio-waste into high-value bio-based products. The event allowed us to engage with attendees on sustainable solutions and share insights into the transformative potential of bio-waste valorisation.

November 2024: BIO4Alim Webinar. MixMatters project was highlighted by TECNALIA Research & Innovation , in the session on the recovery of heterogeneous bio-waste to obtain bioactive compounds, biopolymers, and building blocks.



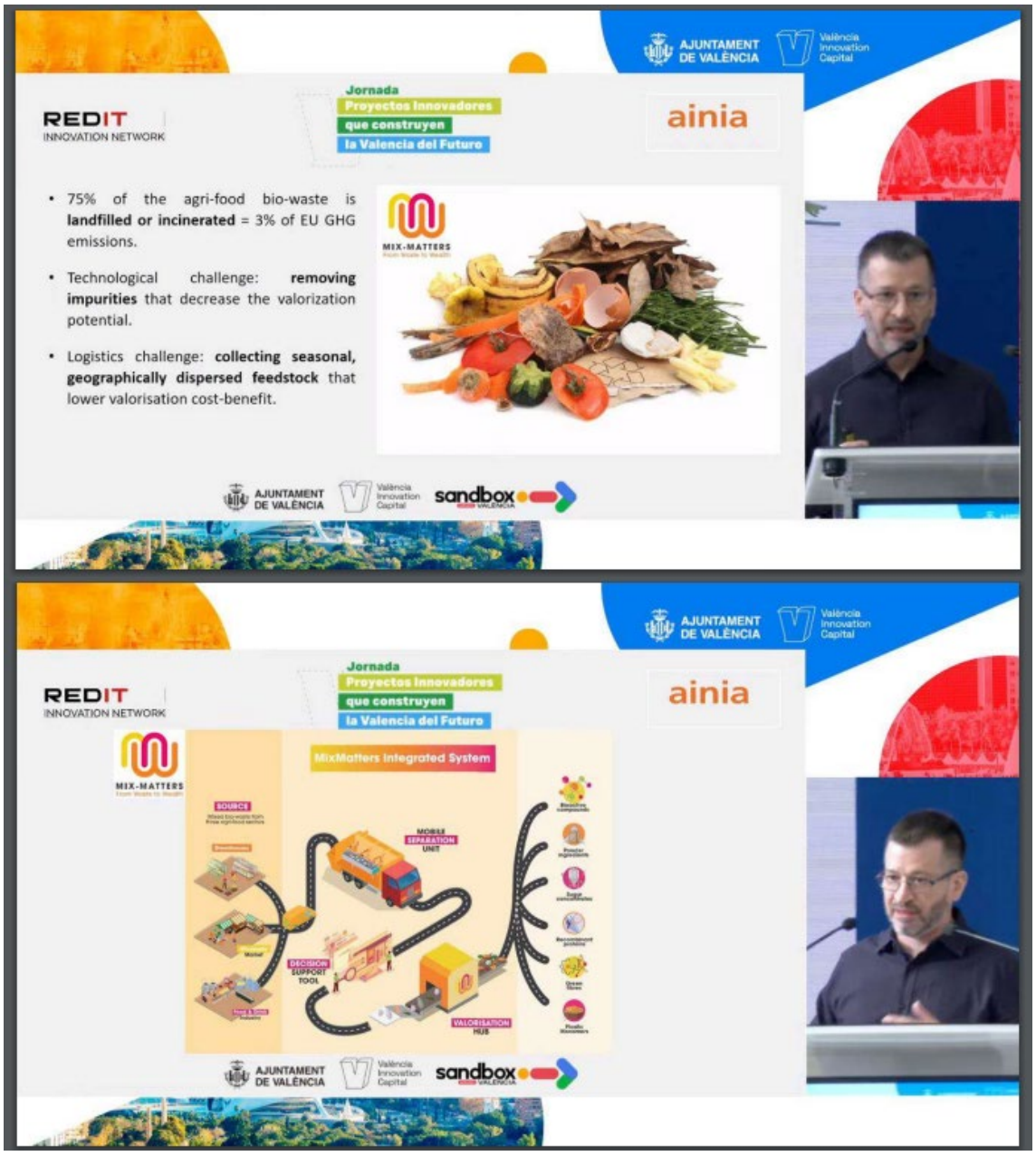
MixMatters at

November 2024: "Explore the journey to microbial protein marvels" Event in Melle. Organised by ILVO (Instituut voor Landbouw, Visserij- en Voedingsonderzoek), the MixMatters team saw three of their partners, AINIA, ILVO and Wagralim, the Agri-Food Innovation Cluster of Wallonia get together to share their insights and meet case studies, and dive into challenges and opportunities around microbial proteins.

MixMatters at

November 2024: INTERPOM in Kortrijk. Our MixMatters team had representation at the exposition, with ILVO (Instituut voor Landbouw, Visserij- en Voedingsonderzoek) present on the international event.

December 2024: Sandbox Urbano València. MixMatters Project was well represented at the event, (check it here! 👉 Sandbox Urbano Valencia Presentation) where AINIA presented the updates on the project, and how this solutions are making a difference in key sectors and promoting a real change towards more sustainable and responsible models.



MixMatters at

Thank you to everyone who contributed—together, we're building a more sustainable future. Here's to continued progress in 2025! 🥂 🎉

Join our network and stay updated on the latest news regarding the project and the valorisation of mixed biological waste. You can subscribe to receive news and updates through the website.

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CBE JU. Neither the European Union nor the CBE JU can be held responsible for them.

This project is supported by the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking and its members under grant agreement No 101112409.