RESIDUES TO RESOURCES

Innovating high-value solutions from agri-food side streams

27-28 OCT 2026

SANT PAU, BARCELONA

Sign up at: agriloop-project.eu/residues-to-resources-conference

EVENT SCHEDULE | DAY ONE

12:00 — 14:00 Registrations and networking lunch*

Exhibition on AgriLoop value chains, card game and networking

14:00 — 14:10 Welcome and introduction to AgriLoop's circular agriculture design

Creating integrated biorefineries to convert agri-residues into novel opportunities.

Speakers:

- **Nathalie Gontard,** Project Coordinator (EU) and Research Director, National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), France
- **Aimin Shi,** Project Coordinator (China) and Professor, Institute of Food Science and technology, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IFST-CAAS), China

14:10 — 14:50 Managing agricultural residue circularity: pathways to gold?

This session explores the opportunities, environmental benefits and pitfalls of reusing agricultural residues circularly. Drawing on stakeholder suggestions, it quantifies the potential of selected opportunities, highlights possible hazards in chosen residue-to-product pathways, and demonstrates their environmental benefits.

It closes with recommendations and an open discussion on **how to identify circular opportunities in general, and why situation-specific hurdles must be considered.**

Speakers:

- **Jan Broeze,** Wageningen University & Research, the Netherlands
- **Miguel Mauricio,** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- **Gang Li ,** Beijing Technology and Business University, China

**Lunch is provided free of charge for registered attendees*

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14:50 — 15:30 Unlocking biomass value through cascade extraction: from concept to reality

After introducing Agriloop's work on recovering proteins and valuable natural chemicals from agricultural residues, the session will discuss how to unlock their value in China, exploring cutin value chains from plant protection to functional materials. It will then introduce the "two-phase, double value" eco-recovery of phenolics and carotenoids using biphasic NADES.

It closes with an open debate on **no waste, just value: the next steps for agricultural biorefineries under safe-and-sustainable-by-design principles.**

Speakers:

- Chahinez Aouf, National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), France
- Hui Hu, Institute of Food Science and technology, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IFST-CAAS), China
- Nadia Ribeiro and Cristina Silva Pereira, Institute of Chemical and Biological Technology, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Portugal
- Annalisa Tassoni, Department of Biological Geological and Environmental Sciences, University of Bologna, Italy

15:30 Break and networking (30 mins)

16:00 — 17:00 Closing the loop: advanced biological strategies for converting agri-residues into microbial protein and polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs)

This session will highlight recent advances in the sustainable bioconversion of agricultural residues into high-value products, specifically microbial protein and polyhydroxyalkanoates. It will explore key innovations across the whole process chain: feedstock pretreatment, advanced fermentation strategies, efficient product recovery and purification, and the use of mathematical modelling for process optimisation.

An open discussion working with the public on the **next steps to be set up** plus audience questions will close this session.

Speakers:

- Wei Gao, Institute of Agricultural Resources and Regional Planning of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IARRP-CAAS), China
- Miguel Mauricio, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- Maria Reis, Innovation and Development Association, NOVA School of Science and Technology, Portugal
- Marianna Villano, University of Roma, Italy

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17:00 — 17:40 Agro-residues valorisation into new sustainable bioproducts: pilot scale experiences

Agriloop turns promising value chains for valorising agri-waste into tangible applications. This session illustrates several pilot-scale alternatives and shares the lessons learned and challenges met while scaling up technologies and developing sustainable alternatives from agricultural residues.

The focus is on microbial proteins for feed, cutin and composite PHA-based materials for agricultural use in the context of the EU and China.

A panel discussion will wrap up the session, asking: **from pilot success to market reality, what are the remaining challenges?**

Speakers:

- **Hélène Angellier-Coussy,** University of Montpellier, France
- **Tommaso Barbieri,** TomaPaint, Spain
- **David Bolzonella,** University of Roma, Italy
- **Filip Miketa,** Bio-Mi, Croatia
- **Lars Stegemüller,** Avecom, the Netherlands
- **Yao Xiaolong,** Beijing Technology and Business University, China

17:40 — 18:00 Concluding remarks and reflections

Speakers:

- **Nathalie Gontard,** INRAE, France
- **Aimin Shi,** IFST-CAAS, China

18:30 — 19:30 Live YouTube Q&A with farmers and agroecology stakeholders

This session follows up on the video **"A farm fighting to eliminate plastic with scientists tackling the challenge,"** produced by journalist Pierre Girard.

Open to all. The discussion will be in French but questions and comments in other languages from the live participants will be translated.

Participants:

- **Pierre Girard,** Journalist, Arte, TousTerriens, France
- **Hélène Angellier-Coussy,** University of Montpellier, France
- **David Bolzonella,** University of Roma, Italy
- **Nathalie Gontard,** INRAE, France
- **Jan Linck and Burkhard Schaer,** ECOZEPT, Germany/France

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EVENT SCHEDULE | DAY TWO

RESIDUES TO RESOURCES

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09:00 — 10:30 External keynote speakers and views

Engineering and building demo and industrial scale biorefineries on various feedstock, processes and products. Latest most promising advances worldwide.

- Wolfgang Ranfft, Vice President Bio Based Products at De Smet Engineers & Contractors (DSEC), Germany

Bioplastics from biowaste: regulatory, technical and market landscape

- Mauro Majone, SiPHA, Italy

Closing the loop with insects: Advances and challenges in insect bioconversion

- Christos Rumbos, University of Thessaly and CIPROMED project, Greece

Efficient bioconversion of agricultural and forestry waste into microbial protein

- Wei Gao, IARRP-CAAS, China

10:30 Break and networking (30 mins)

11:00 — 13:30 Workshops

Delegates are invited to choose one of three workshops:

1. From residues to revenue: Making new sustainable value chains work for industry and farmers
2. Next generation proteins for a growing world
3. No time to waste in addressing plastic particles in agriculture.

Workshop 1: From residues to revenue - making new sustainable value chains work for industry and farmers

The session will produce concrete assumptions, conditions, barriers and recommendations to feed into the afternoon roundtable.

Objectives:

- Co-develop a simplified 'Residues-to-Revenue Canvas' to identify what makes residue-based value chains work for both industry and farmers.
- Use the canvas to make success factors, critical assumptions, risks and validation needs visible.
- Identify what farmers and cooperatives would need to accept the new solution.
- Clarify market, operations, cost, risk and governance conditions for scale-up.
- Distil success factors, open assumptions and recommendations.

External challenge voices:

- René Rozendal, Paques Biomaterial, the Netherlands
- Thomas Guillard, Industrial Design – La Moricière, France

Moderators: Jan Linck and Burkhard Schaer, ECOZEPT, Gemma Gandia and Clara Fullana Pons, Federació de Cooperatives Agràries de Catalunya

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Workshop 2: Next generation proteins for a growing world

The session will engage the participants in a thought-provoking exploration of how sustainable proteins can help meet the challenges of a growing and changing world.

Objectives:

- Identify promising next-generation protein sources for sustainable food and feed production.
- Share recent advances in the extraction, valorization, and application of alternative proteins.
- Evaluate the benefits and challenges associated with scaling novel protein solutions.
- Understand key safety aspects, including allergenicity, to support responsible innovation and consumer trust.

External challenge voices:

- **Christos Rumbos,** University of Thessaly and CIPROMED project, Greece
- **Laura Cavallarin,** CNR and CIPROMED project, Italy

Moderator: Annalisa Tassoni, Department of Biological Geological and Environmental Sciences, University of Bologna, Italy

Workshop 3: No time to waste in addressing plastic particles in agriculture

This session will explore the sources, impacts, and mitigation of plastic particles in agricultural systems.

Objectives:

- Learn how plastic particles enter and accumulate in agricultural soils
- Understand the consequences on the safety and valorisation of agricultural residues
- Explore methods for assessing the environmental impact and footprint of plastic particles
- Discover the type of solutions AGRILOOP is offering to mitigate plastic particles

External challenge voices:

- **Adrian Grunder,** Bern University and MINAGRIS project, Switzerland
- **Brais Vazquez,** University of Santiago de Compostela and ECOPOLYVER project, Spain
- **Valérie Guillard,** University of Montpellier and PLASTIPRINT project, France

Moderator: Joëlle Housmans, National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), France

13:30 — 15:00 **Lunch* and networking**

During lunch delegates can visit the poster presentations of AgriLoop's PhD and post doc researchers, and learn more about the project's main value chains.

**Lunch is provided free of charge for registered attendees*

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15:00 — 17:30 Roundtable discussions

Roundtable involving the whole room on the key questions arising from the three workshops on markets, proteins and plastic, and in particular about how to benefit from identified opportunities while tackling risks and bottlenecks. The session begins with a quick round of feedback from each workshop lead.

Moderators:

- Pierre Girard, Journalist - Arte, TousTerriens, France
- Aimin Shi, IFST-CAAS, China
- Nathalie Gontard, INRAE, France

17:30 — 18:00 Conference closing

Final remarks, followed by farewell games open to all delegates.

18:00 — 20:00 Evening networking drinks

Make those last-minute connections over a complimentary aperitivo.

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