



**LIFE + Environment Policy and Governance**

Project Number: LIFE10 ENV/GR/594

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**Project:** Best practices for agricultural wastes (AW) treatment and reuse in the Mediterranean countries

[www.wastereuse.eu](http://www.wastereuse.eu)

Action 6 - Development of alternative agricultural practices. Demonstration in greenhouse and field experiments (Italy)

*Deliverable "Alternative methods for cultivation of main market crops under Italian climatic conditions with the use of treated AW. Guidelines for successive implementation by growers/scientists. Evaluated data regarding production cost, environmental and social benefits"*

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## **Executive summary**

On the basis of the trials carried out in the frame of the project whose outcomes were described in the deliverable “Report with cultivation practices applied during the action, followed by technical and economical assessment as well as, qualitative and quantitative comparison between new and traditional cultivation practices (Italy)”, it was possible to put in comparison traditional and innovative cultivation systems based on the use of selected agricultural wastes and, specifically, compost.

Compost is normally used as part of the peat-based growing media adopted for the cultivation of potted plants. After crop establishment, compost can in fact promote plant growing when nutrient request increases and normal watering is applied favoring the dilution of nutrients and avoiding potential phytotoxic effects.

In the present deliverable a key study is analyzed with regards to production costs related to the production of potted aromatic plants in the Albenga area. Potted aromatic plants represent the key crop of the area accounting for about 25% of the entire national production. Among productive factors, growing media and fertilizers are hereby considered and figures regarding cost reduction related to their partial replacement with compost are contemplated.