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First Materials Tested In Aitiips Mulching Technology Development



Spain's Aitiip Technology Centre [Zaragoza; www.aitiip.com] has developed mulching technology, as part of the "Life Multibiosol [www.multibiosol.eu] project that has been installed at agricultural facilities in Zaragoza, where tomato, pepper and cucumber are grown. In mulching, plastic films are installed on agricultural land. Small holes are made in the film where the crop is planted. The film layer reduces water loss and growth of weeds is prevented – bringing a clear saving in water and herbicides. However, plastic mulching has a number of drawbacks, including recyclability and disposal of the film.

The aim of the project is to address technological and ecological challenges, developing a biobased, biodegradable film that also improves soil properties. For this, Aitiip tested 10 materials, adding trace elements that improve plants. Carolina Peñalva, Multibiosol project coordinator, said: "This mulching does not need removal once the plant or fruit is harvested since it is degraded in the soil and also provides trace elements improving land quality. It is easy, ecological and useful.

Tests on 648 m² of biomulching materials began in May, when 18 rolls of 10 different polymers, of a thickness of about 20 microns were installed. The tests will establish levels of resistance, biodegradability and the effects of trace elements on the plant and soil. In the next stage of the project, apple and peach trees will be covered with biodegradable plastic bio-bags. Samples of the plastic will be laboratory tested to check the degree of biodegradability. Harvested products will then be analysed to determine quality levels.

The "Multibiosol project, coordinated by Aitiip, is part of the European Union's "LIFE programme, which has the objective of demonstrating that sustainability and efficiency of agricultural practices can be achieved by introducing innovative, economically viable and fully biodegradable plastic that eliminates waste completely.



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Rank	Flag	Country	Visitor Count
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2		China	10,550
3		Iran (the Islamic Republic of)	9,438
4		Germany	6,709
5		Ukraine	4,387
6		France	3,607
7		Italy	3,133
8		Russian Federation	2,820
9		United Kingdom	2,720
10		India	2,548

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All about elastomers



The project will be implemented in Spain, France and Belgium by a multinational team of seven partners from three member states of the EU – Spain, Italy and Belgium.

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About Multibiosol

The “Multibiosol” project is part of the European Union’s LIFE program. The general objective of this project is to demonstrate that sustainability and efficiency of agricultural practices can be achieved by introducing an innovative, economically viable and fully biodegradable plastic that eliminates waste completely.

Conventional non-degradable polymers after single-use become plastic waste, creating a serious problem of waste management since it is time-consuming and expensive to recycle. This plastic waste is usually abandoned, incinerated or taken to a landfill. These practices have serious consequences for the environment. Over the lifespan of the project we will aim to:

1. Eliminate waste management
2. Develop new biodegradable plastics films with a very low carbon footprint impact
3. Improve soil and crop quality

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