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21 Juni 2016

**A demo installation of a biobased, biodegradable and additivated mulching developed in Aitiip is starting this week**

**Life + Multibiosol project developing a biobased, biodegradable film and also improves soil properties**



Aitiip Technology Centre has developed an innovative mulching, in the framework of Multibiosol project (Life +), which this Friday will begin to be installed in fields of Saragossa, where tomato, pepper and cucumber is grown.

Mulching is an agricultural technique consisting of installing plastic films on land. Later it makes a small hole where the crop is planted. Thanks to this film layer between the earth and atmosphere, water loss and growth of weeds is prevented. It represents a clear saving in water and herbicides.

However, the plastic mulching has a number of drawbacks, first recyclability and secondly the added work of its deleting.

**Multibiosol project**

Under the Life + Multibiosol project, coordinated by Aitiip Technology Centre, the purpose is to address this technological and ecological challenge, developing a biobased, biodegradable film and also improves soil properties.

For this been tested with up to 10 different materials, further adding trace elements that improve plants, providing them with more vigor.

"This mulching, once the plant or fruit is harvested, it is not necessary to remove it. The same is degraded in the soil and also provides trace elements improving land quality. It is easy, ecological and useful" says Dr. Carolina Peñalva, Multibiosol project coordinator.

The tests begin on Friday May 20, when 18 rolls of 10 different materials, having a thickness of about 20 microns will be installed. The objective of this test is to check resistance, biodegradability and the effects of trace elements on the plant and soil.

EEAD-CSIC and PCTAD, project partners, will control the parameters before and after the crop and also in the soil.

Other project partners are the ARCHA laboratories (an Italian SME that offers chemical and biological analysis), Agrifood Cooperatives of Aragon (CAA), GroenCreatie (a processor and producer of Belgian bioplastics) and Transfer LB Consultancy.

**About Life+ programme**

The LIFE Programme is the European Union's funding instrument for the environment for 2014-2020. Its overall objective is based on catalyzing changes in the development and implementation of policies by providing solutions and best practices to achieve environmental and climate goals, as well as the promotion of innovative technologies in environmental and climate change. It should support, also, the implementation of general Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 "Living well within the limits of our planet".

**About Aitiip Technology Centre**

Aitiip is a private technology centre, offering technological and R & D service to companies and research



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centres. In Europe it is a reference in the plastics industry, as it is involved in the whole chain of production value thereof, from mould design to product manufacturing.

Source: Aitiip, press release, 2016-05-23.

**Supplier**

Aitiip Centro Tecnológico  
 EEAD-CSIC  
 European Union  
 GroenCreatie  
 Laboratori Archa (IT)  
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