

# ACR+ Sustainable Food Systems

Activity Report 2024

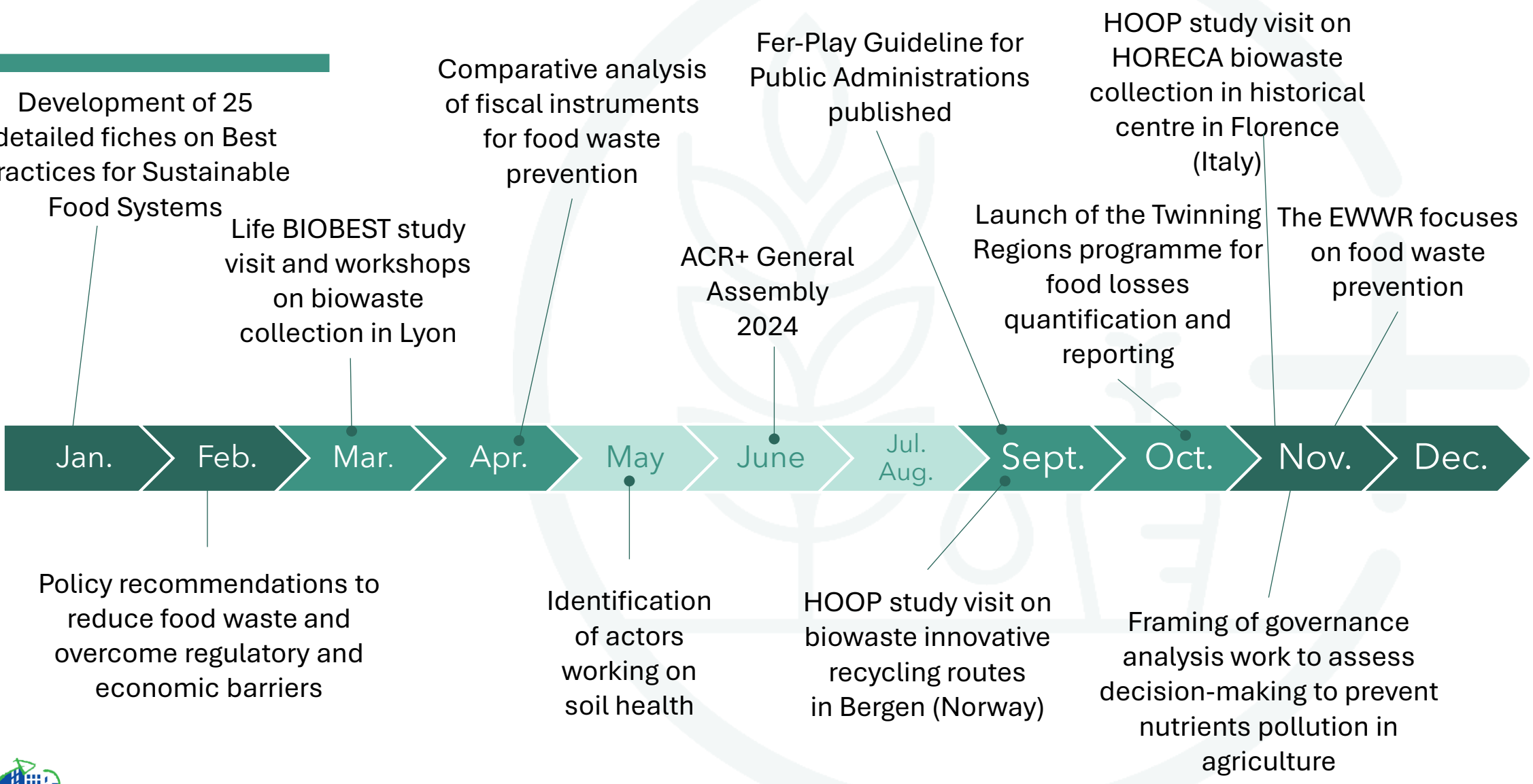


# INTRODUCTION

2024 was a productive year for ACR+, and the Sustainable Food Systems thematic area made significant strides. While finalising work on food waste prevention across the whole food value chain, we also started new activities tackling food losses quantification in primary production. In the field of agricultural production, we started new activities aimed to address nutrients pollution of soil and water systems. We continued to work on the promotion of soil health through the identification of actors active in sustainable soil management. In the area of biowaste management, we joined forces with the Waste and Material Flows thematic area to organise several study visits.

As many results became available, part of our activities were dedicated to knowledge-sharing initiatives. We coordinated the development of 25 best practice fiches on sustainable food systems, we produced a policy report on regulatory and economic barriers to food waste prevention, we set up an online brochure to inform public authorities on the importance of measuring food losses. For the organic waste management component, awareness activities included exploring innovative solutions for organic waste collection, treatment, and valorisation.

# OVERVIEW



# HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES

## + Guideline for local and regional authorities for uptake and promotion of circular fertilisers

ACR+ prepared a [guideline for Public Authorities](#) that presents a collection of general recommendations and actual good practices for the uptake of fertilisers produced from waste and side streams. The guide is based on the outcomes of discussions with Public Authorities that are the front runners of circular fertiliser production and use in EU and offers actionable proposals to Local and Regional Authorities.



## + Comparative analysis of fiscal instruments for food waste prevention

We assessed fiscal instruments on food donations, and other fiscal incentives for reduction and prevention of food waste, and for the promotion of food redistribution and donations. Results of our analyse has been gathered in [a briefing on the prevention of food waste by fiscal instruments](#).



# HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES

## + 25 best practices fiches published on the Sustainable Food Systems innovation platform

Along with the Municipality of Halandri, an ACR+ member, and other stakeholders across Europe, the thematic area coordinated the development of 25 detailed fiches describing the components of best practices in sustainable food systems, with a focus on food waste prevention, reduction and redistribution, and on the empowerment of short food supply chains. Examples come from across Europe and provide "ready-to-use" information on the enabling conditions for the set-up of the described measures.

## + Identification of soil health action and good soil management practices

This activity involved assessing ongoing awareness-raising activities related to soil management and soil health, gathering input from both ACR+ members and external stakeholders. Consultations took place in Brussels with those engaged in the "Super Terram" project supported by Brussels Environment, and in Pays de la Loire with participants in the "Fresque du Sol" activities. Two videos have been produced and made available on the Knowledge Hub of the Prepsoil project.



# HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES

## + Identification of Communities of Practice (CoPs) and Soil Living Labs (SLLs) working on soil management

This activity identified local initiatives and [Soil Living Labs](#) (SLLs) dedicated to improving soil management. While [Soil Communities of Practice](#) (CoPs) activate on a voluntary basis actors at the local scale on location-specific soil matters, SLLs bring together diverse groups of actors, across different sites, to design solutions to soil health challenges. By fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing across these communities, ACR+ is supporting the promotion of sustainable soil management practices and ensure the long-term health of our soils.

## + EWWR thematic focus

For its 2024 edition, the European Week for Waste Reduction focused on food waste prevention. Several tools have been developed to support Action Developers. Together with some actions implemented, they have been presented to the EU FLW Prevention Hub members in December.



# HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES

## + Launch of the FOLOU Twinning Regions programme

In October 2024 we launched the [FOLOU Twinning Regions](#) programme, started the recruitment phase of local and regional actors willing to act upon food losses generation in primary production. The programme will unfold throughout 2025-2026 and will provide participants with better understanding of food loss drivers, tools to measure and report food losses, and an array of online courses prepared by university teachers.

## + Study visits

ACR+ took advantage of several EU-funded projects to organise different study visits focusing on specific aspects of waste management: [biowaste collection in urban areas in Lyon](#), [HORECA food waste management with underground containers in the historical centre of Florence](#), to name a few. ACR+ successfully invited several representatives of European cities and regions to foster peer exchanges on common challenges and potential solutions.



# UPCOMING

In 2025 we will be busy:

- Conducting a governance analysis to understand how decisions regarding nutrient pollution prevention in agriculture are made and what mechanisms can improve the process for a stronger impact in terms of pollution prevention;
- Setting up a Decision Support Tool for public administrations and decision makers to choose among technological and nature-based solutions (NBS) options to tackle water and soil pollution from nutrients emitted during agricultural production
- Supporting the dissemination of results from the Prepsoil project, which concludes in mid-2025, including a final event in Brussels in May 2025.
- Implementing the first activities of the FOLOU Twinning Regions programme, and supporting the selected regional and local actors identify their priority areas of action
- Exploring new activities to improve resilience in water use and work towards the Water Resilience strategy of the EU



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