

## PRESS RELEASE

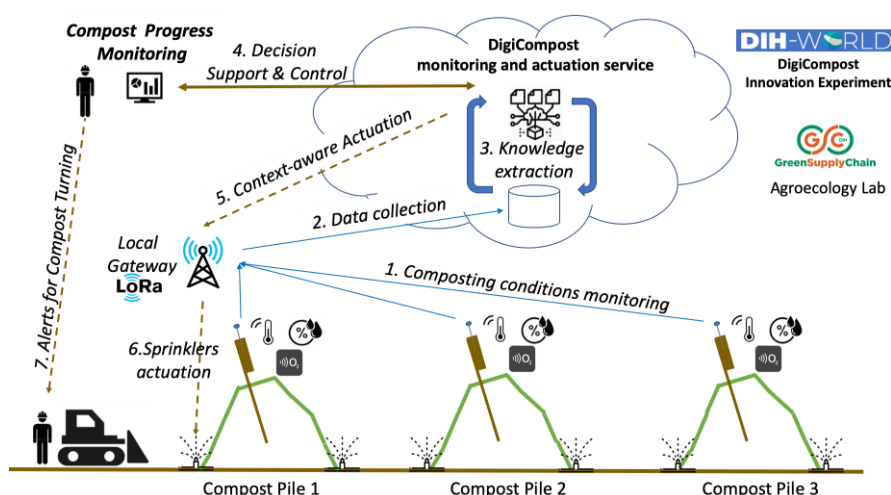
### EU project designs solution to digitalise the organic compost production to enable the transition to sustainable agriculture and the achievement of Green Deal goals

Under the Green Deal umbrella, Farm to Fork Strategy has set out a very important target as a way to tackle climate change and environmental degradation: bringing **25% of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming by 2030**, while **decreasing the use of chemical fertilisers by >20%**. This results in an increasing pressure on farmers to adopt sustainable farming practices, such as organic production and agroecology.

At the same time, farmers are facing an increasing number of additional pressures, such as productivity pressures, and the **continuously increasing prices for chemical fertilisers** due to the Russian-Ukrainian war. This creates a significant opportunity for organic compost producers, in addressing a significantly bigger market than ever before, which will continue growing due to real urgent needs and political/societal push.

Organic compost is a **natural, nutrient-dense, cost-efficient** alternative which supports soil regeneration and stabilises organic matter. In Greece and many other countries in the region, due to cost limitations and/or lack of digital skills, the manufacturing of compost, which is taking place in open space using of piles (no composting bins used), is mainly manual. This includes both a) the monitoring of the compost conditions, which is limited to manual daily checks of the pile's temperature, but also the decision making and management process, including compost irrigation and stirring activities.

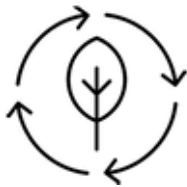
The main objective of the DigiCompost Innovative Experiment is to help Agroecology Lab, an innovative Greek SME dedicated in sustainable agriculture, in digitalising its organic compost production, enabling the digital transformation of the company. DigiCompost was focused on co-designing, deploying and testing a solution that will digitise the overall production process, offering extensive supervision, control and optimisation over it along with prediction capabilities on the compost's nutrients and time of completion. The targeted sector is agri-food production and compost manufacturing and it will take place in the Corinth area of the Peloponnese region in Greece. The proposed Innovative Experiment was supported by GreenSupplyChain DIH that provided a number of supporting DIH services focused on prototyping and demonstrating the solution on the field.



With the support of GreenSupplyChain DIH, DigiCompost aimed to identify and document the appropriate technologies, methods and achieved performance towards the optimisation of compost production. DigiCompost focused on the concurrent management of multiple piles of large volumes of heterogeneous organic raw materials that are composted in open spaces. At the same time relevant restrictions that will be considered are to keep the environmental footprint, the financial investment cost and overall nuisance level to minimum. By digitising the compost manufacturing process, significant economic and commercial impact is foreseen:

- Reduction of time needed to produce compost:  $\geq 20\%$
- Reduction of personnel effort needed for overall compost production process:  $\geq 72\%$
- Reduction of operational production costs: 45%

**Contact us for more information:**



**Mr Theo Kontogiannis**  
Agroecology Lab  
Corinth, Greece  
theok@agroecologylab.gr



**Dr Christopher Brewster**  
GreenSupplyChain DIH  
Voorburg, Netherlands  
info@greensupplychain.eu

*Funded by DIH-World project and the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the Contracting Authority can be held responsible for them.*



Funded by  
the European Union