



### Alcarràs Composting Plant

The livestock farmers participating in Alcarràs Bioproductors set up a composting plant in Alcarràs in the Segrià region in 2022. It is a pioneering facility in the livestock sector as it mixes manure and slurry from cattle and pig farms with biomass from the cleaning of parks and gardens in the municipality to obtain a fertiliser with better properties.

The project is promoted by the strategic plan for the economic transformation of Lleida, the Pyrenees and Aran and the Patronat de Promoció Econòmica and has gathered 150 livestock farming families in the municipality with and required an investment of 1.5 MEUR.

There are almost thirty large-scale pig and cattle farms active in the area. Nearly half a million animals are reared annually in the town. As a result of this activity, a very significant amount of livestock waste is generated, which the producers must manage, and it is precisely with the aim of guaranteeing a management centre that this initiative has arisen. The project has also made it possible to promote the circular bioeconomy and generate new opportunities in the territory.

The plant can process around 27,000 tonnes of manure per year and is part of the BioHub Km0 project. The result of the composting process is an organic fertiliser that is either used on the fields or sold, mainly to France.

Since the distance from each of the farms to the treatment plant is different, and in order not to favour or penalise the different farmers involved in the initiative, an agreement was reached to fix an average transport cost that would be the same for all. Transport to the plant is a subcontracted service.

The project is now looking to expand to incorporate a biogas plant, which will generate electricity. The electricity generated will be partly fed into the electricity grid, and partly back to the farms. In addition, denitrified water will be obtained from the conversion process, which could be used to irrigate the fields.

The process of implementing the plan has been complex and has taken a long time, but it has paved the way for other municipalities with significant livestock farming activity that are interested in replicating the initiative. In this sense, the Alcarràs bioproducts plant is doing an impeccable job of transferring the keys to success and boosting its replication potential.



#### KEY WORDS

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#### COUNTRY

Spain

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#### LINKS

[www.intercambiom.org](http://www.intercambiom.org)

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

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



It is worth to highlight from the initiative the fact that it is an initiative born from the farmers themselves, who joined forces to transform their manure into compost and managed to bring together the needs and wills of 150 farmers.



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## ABOUT BRANCHES

BRANCHES is a H2020 “Coordination Support Action” project, that brings together 12 partners from 5 different countries. The overall objective of BRANCHES is to foster knowledge transfer and innovation in rural areas (agriculture and forestry), enhancing the viability and competitiveness of biomass supply chains and promoting innovative technologies, rural bioeconomy solutions and sustainable agricultural and forest management.



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## THE PARTNERSHIP

