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PRESS RELEASE

Valorising agricultural residues for local and sustainable cosmetics and nutraceuticals

The Interreg NWE AgriWasteValue project

The European market for food supplements in 2019 amounted to €12.6 billion, while the market for cosmetics is estimated at €80 billion.

These figures, which have been increasing in recent years, show that consumers are paying a lot of attention to their health and well-being. However, a new trend is emerging at the same time: a desire to return to products that are as natural as possible, whose ingredients' origin is traceable and transparent. Companies must therefore reinvent themselves and adapt the composition of their products.

The aim of the [Interreg North-West Europe AgriWasteValue](#) project, carried out over 4 years (2018 - 2022) by European partners, was **to transform agricultural residues** from the North-Western regions of Europe **into bioactive compounds** for use in the cosmetics and nutraceutical fields, and then in a second phase, in the energy and agricultural fields.

Local natural compounds

Currently, the majority of natural active ingredients used in cosmetic or nutraceutical formulations are imported into Europe, although a great diversity of resources is present.

The project focused on three promising crops: grapevines, apple trees and pear trees. The pruning of these trees are usually left on the ground, although they contain very interesting molecules, notably for their antioxidant and anti-ageing properties. After [identifying the raw material available in Europe](#), the project partners extracted these molecules to offer them in more local and sustainable cosmetic and nutraceutical products.

For cosmetics and nutraceuticals, but not only!

Once the molecules of interest have been extracted from the selected agricultural residues, these are not thrown away! The residues are in turn used for energy purposes, where they could be used to feed a biogas plant. Finally, the digestate from this biogas plant could be used as fertiliser in agriculture. The material is therefore returned to the soil and **the cycle is thus complete**.

Key numbers

- 26 residue varieties explored: 11 grapevines, 10 apple trees, 5 pear trees
- 1,492,432 estimated tonnes of vine prunings and 340,493 estimated tonnes of apple and pear prunings available in North West Europe
- 20 new molecules identified
- 3 extracts with particularly promising antioxidant, anti-ageing and anti-tyrosinase capacities, derived from apple, pear and vine prunings.

More information about the project

- Video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tohvVUkyrDM>
- On the project website : <https://www.agriwastevalue.eu/en>

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The partners of the project



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