

The P-TRAP project: Tackling the diffuse phosphorus input to surface waters

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In March 2019 the EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network P-TRAP has started. P-TRAP aims to develop new methods and approaches to trap phosphorus (P) in drained agricultural areas and in the sediments of eutrophic lakes. The project has a dual objective: 1) to reduce the loading of surface waters with P, which is the main cause for eutrophication and presents a key challenge in meeting the objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive; 2) to contribute to closing the agricultural P cycle by converting the trapped P into useful products for agricultural applications. The consortium consists of nine beneficiaries and seven partner organization, and is involving 11 PhD students.

The various approaches to trap and recycle phosphorus (P) within the P-TRAP project have in common that they rely on the naturally strong connection between P and iron (Fe). This includes the high affinity of P for Fe (hydr)oxides but also the release and binding of P during the transformation of Fe minerals.

The structure of the P-TRAP project with the various work packages, related tasks and objectives will be explained. Examples of ongoing activities will be shown and highlights of first results will be presented.