



DBV Position on sewage sludge and Strubias

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- 1. Circular economy**
- 2. Farmers need**
- 3. Current situation in Germany**
- 4. DBV position and conclusions**



1. Circular economy



Circular economy



- Simple system in the past
- Modern complex system with division of labour
 - **gap of recovery of nutrients**
- Recovery of nutrients from society bear risks and uncertainties on contaminants (heavy metals, organic substances, plant diseases, microplastics,...) to be managed
- New circles are not easy to find
- Each treatment
 - is connected with losses of nutrients,
 - so possible amounts of recovery depend on the process, are sometimes small
 - but must be developed
 - To get more and more sustainable



2. Farmers need



- Fertilizers are a main resource for farmers for good yields and quality products
 - Nutrients for the plants
 - Organic substance for the soils
 - Chalk for a proper pH
 - Other functions like inhibitors
- Important for farmers
 - Nutrient content and form and solubility
 - Little tolerances of the content declared
 - Form and part of components
 - Organic, mineral or blends
 - Which kind of CMCs, not only the CMC but more details on raw materials
 - Clear labeling
- Protection of environment, soils and consumer
- Transparency of market and freedom of decision for the farmers



3. Current situation in Germany



Current situation in Germany



- No direct landfill since 2005, only ashes
- New law on sewage sludge in 2017
 - Stronger requirements for the use in agriculture or for soil improvement in landscape construction
 - Obligation of P recovery at the latest from 2029
 - If P content is higher than 20 mg/kg dry matter and
 - The sewage treatment plant is for more than 100.000 inhabitant units (2029) or 50.000 inhabitant units beginning of 2032
 - => smaller treatment plants direct use in agriculture will still be allowed
- German fertilizers regulation
 - Ashes may be used from defined inputs and with clear restrictions
 - Sewage sludge is possible if it complies with the requirement for direct use in agriculture

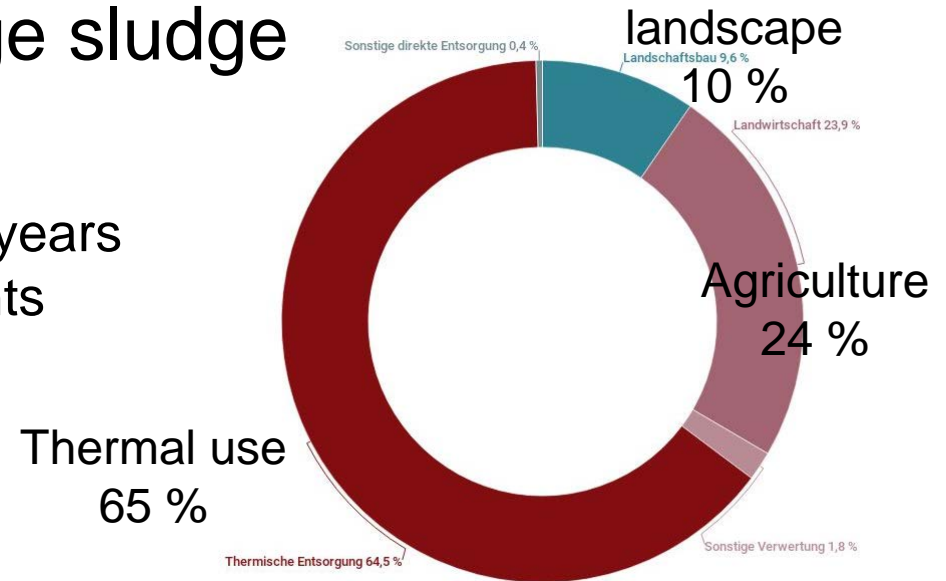


Current situation in Germany

- **Current use of sewage sludge**
 - 1,8 mio. t dry matter per year
 - More than **60 %** of sludge is burned
 - Not enough monoplants where only sewage sludge is used
 - so most of the ashes can` t be used for fertilizers
 - Only **24 %** are recovered for agriculture

- **While quality of sewage sludge improved**

- e.g. decline up to 90 % of heavy metals in the last 40 years
- for municipal treatment plants



4. DBV position and conclusions



DBV Position



- More and more recovery of nutrients is necessary
- We must be aware on the risks with contaminants
- DBV supports the strict rules for the direct use of sewage sludge in agriculture in Germany
- 65 % thermal use is to high, a lot of nutrients are lost, so
- DBV supports also the new legislation on recovery requirements decided in 2017
- but there is a (too) long transition period
- Ashes must be fully burned, no rest of organics like PAK
- the solubility of nutrients in ashes may be low, so treatments may be necessary
- Waiting for the details on the new EU Fertilizers regulation on Strubias



Progress

I'm in favor of progress;

it's change I don't like!

Mark Twain

