

## Announcement of Two Small Scale Research Projects

**A Literature Review on the Availability of Nitrate from Compost in Relation to the Nitrate Regulations SI 378 of 2006**

**A Literature Review on the Availability of Phosphate from Compost in Relation to the Nitrate Regulations SI 378 of 2006**

**November 2006**

The Nitrates Directive was implemented in Ireland in December 2005 under SI 788 of 2005. It was revised and the new amendments are under a new statutory instrument 378 of 2006. The SI 378 of 2006 was passed into Irish law on August 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and supersedes SI 788 of 2005.

In the old SI 788, the availability of nitrate and phosphate was not acknowledged / mentioned. In the new SI 378 of 2006 *{page 12, Nutrient Management part 3, 15 (4)}* the availability of nitrate and phosphate from compost has been given the following standing;

- (1) Nitrate and Phosphate from compost is given the same availability as from cattle manure
- OR
- (2) An individual compost producer can go to their Local Authority / Environmental Protection Agency and agree on a figure on the availability of nitrate and phosphate from their compost.

This SI 378 of 2006 has given the availability of nitrate and phosphate from compost the same as cattle manure. From an initial review, there would appear that this statement is not true. However the 'default mechanism' in which a compost producer can agree with the Local Authority / Environmental Protection Agency on the availability from compost is a positive option for the composting sector in Ireland. To avoid the situation of conflicting 'agreed figures' Cré is proposing to lead these two small scale projects which will review all scientific publications available and will develop a 'Standard Reference Document' for the Composting Sector, Local Authorities and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The projects will be conducted by Dr. Munoo Prasad (Head of the Cré Technical Committee) and Percy Foster M.Sc. (Executive Administrator) of Cré – Composting Association of Ireland Teo.

The projects are funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. This grant aid is provided by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government through the Environmental RTDI (Research Technological Development and Innovation Programme) sub measure of the Productive Sector Operational Programme of the National Development Plan 2000-2006.