

Labeling agricultural plastic waste for valorizing the waste stream

Background

Every year large quantities of agricultural plastic waste (APW) (i.e. films used in protected cultivations, covers, nets, irrigation & drainage pipes, fertilizers' sacks etc) are left on the field, uncontrollably discarded or burnt. Although it is mandatory, only a small percentage of APW is collected, recycled or used for energy recovery due to the high collection cost and the low value of the material.

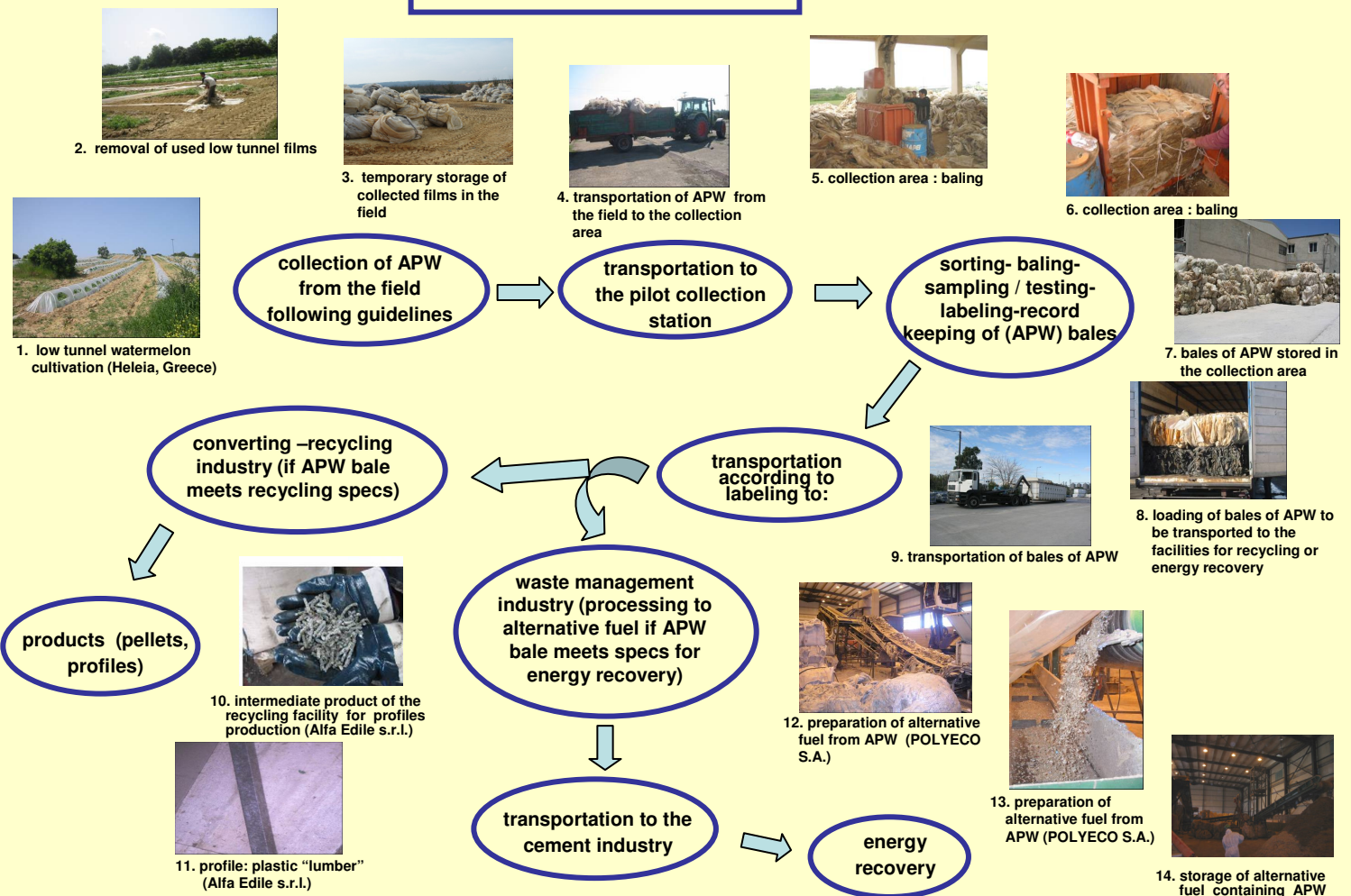
The key objective of Labelagriwaste

If the collected APW meets certain specs (as regards its cleanliness, composition, properties) by being handled and collected properly, and is tested (that it meets the required specs) and labeled accordingly it can be transformed into a valuable commodity i.e. a raw material for converting & recycling industries or an alternative fuel for the cement industry.

The "Labelagriwaste" project

- develops universal specs the APW should meet for each disposal alternative
- develops a labeling scheme for APW streams
- carries out pilot testing (in Greece, Italy, Spain) of alternative labeling schemes and methodologies so as the best be chosen .
- prepares training material and implementation guidelines for farmers, plastic converters and recyclers on the proposed labeling scheme
- conducts dissemination and training activities.

Pilot tests in Greece



Coordinator : Agricultural University of Athens (AUA)

Partners: European Plastic Converters Association (EUPC), European Plastic Recyclers Association (EUPR), Cicloplast S.A., Panhellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives (PASEGES), Federazione Regionale Agricoltori di Puglia (CONFAGRICOLTURA), Panagrotikos Syndesmos Cyprus, FFL, Alfa Edile s.r.l., INSERPLASA S.L., PATI S.p.A., SUOMEN, POLYECO S.A., CEMAGREF, GAIKER, Università degli Studi di Bari (UNIBA), University of Stuttgart (USTUTT), TITAN Cement Company S.A.

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