

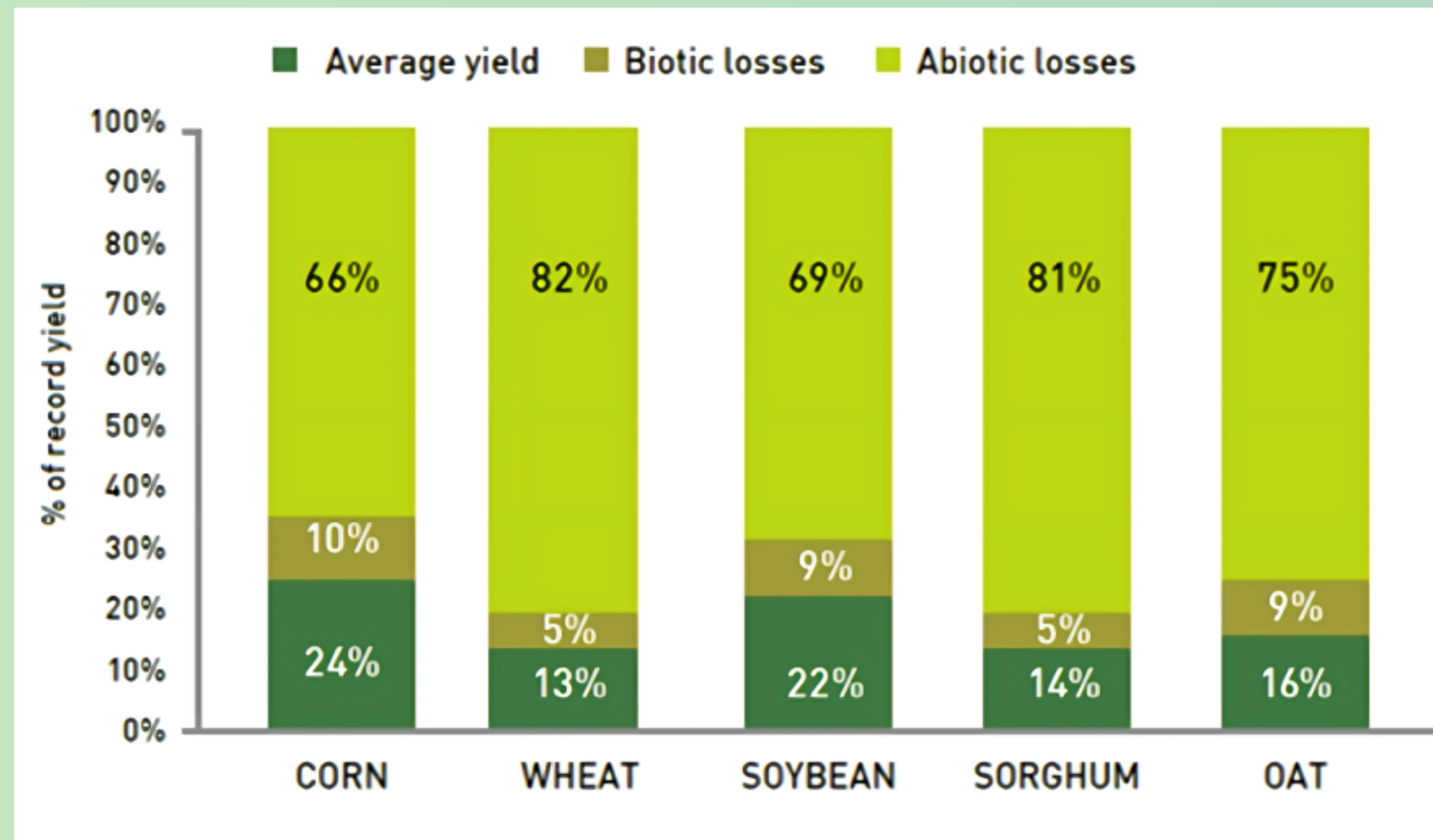


SEAWEED FOR BIOSTIMULANTS



AMBITION

Biostimulants are one of the most strategically important applications of cultivated seaweed within the ever-evolving European food and agriculture sector. They address the urgent need to enhance crop resilience in the face of increased pressures due to climate change and intensive agriculture (abiotic stress). At the same time, they fully align with EU policy priorities on sustainability and the efficient use of resources, as well as reducing CSRD Scope 3 emissions. The European Seaweed Industry plans to utilise cultivated seaweed biostimulants to minimise crop losses and reduce fertiliser and water usage, building on the knowledge and expertise of existing biostimulant producers.



The European Seaweed Industry aims to reduce the use of fertilisers in Europe by 10% by using cultivated seaweed-based biostimulants. This could lead to a 2.5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the EU agricultural sector (8.5 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent), while improving crop quality, yield, soil quality and biodiversity.

2025 This ambition requires more than 0.5 mln ton-wet seaweed in 2050 **2050**

KEY INSIGHTS



High market entry-barrier

Biostimulants from cultivated seaweeds will be more expensive and at best match performance. Approach this challenge with realism.



EU biostimulant regulations ready to use

The EU Fertilising Products Regulation and harmonised CEN standards offer guidance for market entry of biostimulant products.



Cultivated seaweed holds promise of product consistency

Predictability of cultivated seaweed may offer more consistent biostimulant performance: a potential market differentiator.



Sustainability alone does not sell

Better ESG and traceability of cultivated seaweed is not enough. Documented efficacy in trials (dossier) is crucial.



Strategic blends offer faster route to market

Blending with existing seaweed biostimulants may offer synergies between processing & sales and the benefits of cultivated seaweed.

RECOMMENDED INDUSTRY ACTION

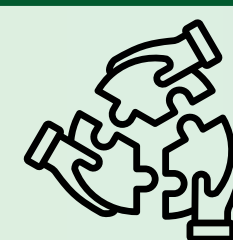
These actions could be followed-up in Joint Industry Projects and/or by research & innovation projects in Europe



Collective advocacy is needed to obtain government support (e.g. **production subsidy**) that will help overcome the price difference between wild harvest & cultivated seaweeds as feedstock for biostimulants.



Identify quality and composition requirements for seaweed feedstocks that allow cultivated seaweeds to achieve marketable advantage in biostimulants in the future.



Explore collaborative models that enable joining resources for **extraction infrastructure** and **trial efforts**. It lowers costs and speeds-up product development and market access.