Effect of Electro-kinetic Remediation of Dredged Sediments on Zucchini Growth

<u>1. Introduction</u>

- Sediments settle in waterbodies (e.g., lakes, reservoirs, and channels)
- \rightarrow affect the natural flow of water systems
- \rightarrow deteriorate normal ship navigation and channel functioning
- → sediments are periodically dredged
- These sediments are often considered as wastes

North-West France

Annually dredged sediments (million m³)









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○ In Europe, ~300 Mm³ of sediments are annually dredged; 55 Mm³ in France
→ hidden benefits of dredged sediments → reaching a circular economy ?

Objectives

- Electro-kinetic remediation (EKR) of dredged sediments to reduce metal contents
- Agricultural soils + dredged sediments → reconstructed soils
- Suitability of growing zucchini plants in those reconstructed soils
- Metal accumulation in zucchini fruits
 - - sediments, hence *reconstructed soils*



- The physico-chemical properties were monitored
- Spatial variation of metal, mineral, and organic contents
- *Initial and EKR-sediments were then used to form reconstructed soils*

<u>3. Growing Zucchini Plants in Reconstructed Soils</u>

- Four reconstructed soils were formed by initial and EKR-sediments and an agricultural soil; each had four replicates
- Zucchini plantlets were grown and the fruits were collected and analyzed for metals

Reconstructed soil 3 Reconstructed soil 1 Reconstructed soil 2 Reconstructed soil 4 Control 100% treated 30% treated sediment 100% non-treated 100% agricultural 30% non-treated sediment sediment + 70% agricultural soil sediment + 70% agricultural soil soil Tr_Sed Tr_Sed+Soil Sed Sed+Soil Ctr





<u>4. Accumulation of Zn and Cu in Zucchini Fruits</u>



- EKR-sediments proved to be suitable media for growing zucchini
- Initial sediment (non-treated) was not able to keep zucchini plants alive

5. Related work

 Effects of EKR on particle size, physico-chemical properties, microbial population, and organic, mineral, and metal contents

• Description of metal behavior caused by EKR

<u>6. Conclusion</u>

- EKR rendered the sediments suitable for zucchini growth
- Reconstructed soils containing EKR-sediments are a promising approach to grow zucchini without affecting metal accumulation
- Re-using dredged sediments after suitable treatment can produce healthy, safe, and sustainable soils -> reaching a circular economy concerning sediments