

NEWSLETTER of ENERGY FORESTS PROJECT

I. 2004

3rd issue

Contract n°: NNE5-2002-00049

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Dear Readers,

As this is the last issue of the Energy Forest Newsletter, first we'd like to thank you your kind attention during the project. Our project officially closed on 30th of April 2004.

In the recent issue we present the main features of the Energy Forest workshops, which were organized in three Central-European countries: Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

We kindly ask you please register on our mailing list, and please check our website in the future, because we intend to provide you fresh information of different events, and of our activities connecting the biomass's utilization.

The final public results of the project are also available on the website.

Goodbye!



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CRES-Centre for Renewable Energy Sources, Greece
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THE CZECH TEAM OF THE ENERGYFOREST PROJECT HELD AN OPEN WORKSHOP IN CHOMUTOV, ON FEBRUARY 5, 2004.

– SUMMARY –

Dr. Petr KORAN



SCOPE OF THE MEETING

The main purpose of this end users meeting is to inform local actors in the ENERGY FOREST case study area - Chomutov district, about the project development, to present the intermediate results and to harmonize the project activities with the needs and wishes of involved actors from agriculture.

Current preferences of farmers in relation to energy crops have to be analysed, funding (subsidies) situation reviewed and possibilities for common effort in convincing the central decision-makers about the advantages of bioenergy production have to be discussed.

MAIN RESULTS OF THE MEETING

- the ENERGY FOREST project aims, scientific background and partners were introduced by Dr.Boukalova and Dr.Koran

- methods of biomass potential assessment in area of Chomutov district were explained and presented by Dr.Koran, GIS system of the energy potential assessment was described

- the relationships used in the bio-potential assessment method (energy yields from different crops, estimated yields depending on the area accessibility, willingness of farmers to produce energy crops etc.) were discussed, agreement on the methodology was achieved (usage of KMK values - coefficient of a cadaster marginality)

- the project results potential utilization by the local actors was discussed, bioenergy-related activities in the district were reviewed - at the moment, there are only few investments in biomass processing in the region, so the farmers are not encouraged to orient themselves on energy crops

- regional situation in agricultural sector was described by Ing.Brožka. Current system of the bio-energy support for farmers doesn't encourage farmers to establish new fields for energy purposes. The situation will change again after entering the EU in May 2004. Agricultural subsidies will not favour bioenergy production. The further development depends purely on special support programmes.

- the end users agreed that the system presented in intermediate version gives good information about the total potential for bioenergy production in the district, it identifies the main potential sources of biomass (agricultural side-production, energy forests, timber waste, energy-hay) and it represents a good starting point for decision-makers in procedure of selecting locations of investments in bioenergy production (source areas, processing facilities, energy-conversion plants)

- participants were informed by Dr.Koran about future research effort - adding an example of economical analysis to the GIS system (in cooperation with partner CRES)

- it was stated by representatives of VZGLS, that the final result (final assessment with economical upgrade of the GIS system - results of scenarios runs for selection of the best places for energy-conversion plants) of the study will be provided to the local actors to help them implement the bio-energy production in the agricultural environment in the Northern Bohemia (Chomutov district)

- willingness to future cooperation was stated by the all participants, collaboration in data acquirement and mutual support in issues of bioenergy production development was established

THE HUNGARIAN TEAM OF THE ENERGYFOREST PROJECT HELD AN OPEN WORKSHOP IN BUDAPEST, ON MARCH 31, 2004.

- SUMMARY -

Mr. Janos HORVATH

The national project teams of the Energyforest project held a series of open workshops in Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary to present their views before a carefully selected audience made up of entrepreneurs, academics, and public officials. These events provided an ample opportunity to expose a wide range of maturing ideas, on how to promote biomass planting, and alternative energy use.

The forum for Hungarian biomass professionals and enthusiasts took place in Budapest, on March 31, 2004. More than seventy organisations and interested individuals attended the workshop surpassing even the most optimistic expectations of the organisers. The event was jointly hosted by GEO-MONTAN, co-ordinator of the Energyforest project, and the Budapest chapter of the Hungarian Agrarian Chamber.



Mr. Janos Horvath co-ordinator, by giving a detailed account of the project, set the keynote of the session, and Mr Laszlo Adam offered a lecture on research methodology. The consecutive lectures represented a wide range of approaches, and were delivered by leading academics, entrepreneurs, and senior level public officials from Hungary and Austria. All presentations were thorough and colourful, and followed by a vivid discussion.

Based on the Budapest workshop some generalisations can be made:

- Alternative energy, and biomass, in particular, *has recently become a hot topic* in Hungary, and in other Central European countries.
- The share of RES in the Hungarian energy-supply mix is very low, and its structure is seriously inadequate. The government *should subsidise much more alternative energy* and biomass experiments, and investments. The current level of support has only a marginal effect, and alternative energy is far too expensive.
- Although, the potential is there, there are still *substantial legal obstacles to overcome*. For instance, the legal standing of energy-forests is unclear, we do not know whether it is legal or

illegal to conduct short-rotation forestry operations, or whether it is legally classified as an agricultural or forestry operation.

- The domestic and European regulatory framework is too complicated and not well understood. Voluntary *professional organisations are not well informed* about pending legislative changes and opinion requests.

- Alternative energy and biomass related initiatives are often *sharply criticised by the Hungarian green movement* and other grassroots organisations.



- Beside favourable natural conditions, a more democratic and *decentralised government structure should be an important prerequisite* for moving ahead faster, as it is shown by the Austrian examples.

Considering the great success of the event the organisers decided to hold two more sessions about the Hungarian prospects of alternative energy, in the near future. For more details and a complete listing of the participants, please contact us at geomontan@axelero.hu.

THE POLISH TEAM OF THE ENERGY FORESTS PROJECT HELD AN OPEN WORKSHOP IN KATOWICE, ON APRIL 29, 2004.

– SUMMARY –

Dr. Krzysztof STANCZYK

The event was hosted by Central Mining Institute and jointly organised by CMI and Centre For Agriculture in Silesia. In the meeting participated also co-ordinator of the Energy Forests project, Mr. Janos Horvath from GeoMontan, Budapest.

More than forty people from different organisations participated in the workshop. The invitations were accepted by representatives of communities in Silesia, ecological organisations, Silesia regional authorities and farmers.

The presentations were delivered by speakers from GeoMontan, Central Mining Institute, Centre For Agriculture in Silesia and Siemianowice Slaskie community.

In the discussion after every presentation many people took part.

The programme of the workshop is presented below.

1. Invitation and Introduction –information about Energy Forests project. Politic of European Union referring to renewable energy sources, K. Stańczyk, CMI
2. Recent state of energy plantation in Central and Eastern European countries, K. Kadlewicz, CMI
3. Possibility of energy crops plantation in Hungary
Janos Horvath- co-ordinator Energy Forests, GeoMontan, Budapest
4. Energy crops plantation – possibilities for demoted area in Silesia, K. Stańczyk, CMI
5. Basic rules for energy crops cultivation
A. Zwierzchowska, Centre For Agriculture in Silesia, Mikołów
6. Estimation of possibility for energy plant cultivation in Silesia taking into account ground conditions, L. Trząski, CMI
7. Local energy market and demand for green energy in Silesia
M. Bieniecki, CMI
8. Plantation on demoted area of Coal Holding - experimental area

K. Gogola, CMI

9. Experience of Siemianowice Slaskie community in energy crops cultivation J. Kopyczok, Community Siemianowice Slaskie

10. Final discussion, K. Stańczyk, CMI

Invitation and some of presentations in polish language are presented too.

For more details and a complete listing of the participants, please contact us at gig@gig.katowice.pl

**THE „RENEWABLE ENERGY” CONFERENCE IN VIENNA, ON DECEMBER 4-6., 2003
- SUMMARY -
Mr. János HORVÁTH**

Arsenal Research, in co-operation with BIT Austria (IRC), EUREKA, and the Hungarian NGO INNOSTART, hosted a conference entitled, 'Cooperation Exchange with Central and East-European Countries' between December 4 and 6, 2003, at the Parkhotel Schönbrunn, in Vienna, Austria.

Presentations and workshops were accompanied with a poster session, excursions, social events, and a press conference. More than two hundred organisations attended the event representing the member states of the EU, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The target audience consisted of such SMEs and research firms, who were actively seeking innovative solutions in the fields of renewable energy-technologies, thermal solar energy, heat pumps, biomass, photovoltaic, and energy-efficient building technology.

The aim of the cooperation exchange was to seek out partners for developing new products, resolving licensing issues, and starting joint ventures and collaborations for EU supported research programmes. The event offered an excellent opportunity to establish bilateral contacts with many companies and research organisations in the renewable energy sector.

The target audience of the brokerage event were enterprises aiming to develop, produce, implement and distribute innovative products and services, in co-operation with foreign research and development organisations, technology service providers and consultants, who possessed the latest know-how, and R+D results.

Participating organisations were brought together for an informal consultation at the brokerage event, based on their technology profiles. These profiles were described as:

- Technology offers representing innovative know-how, products and processes, that would be mature enough to be launched on the market, if supporting partners could be identified.

- Technology requests, that is, looking for technology partners with specific competencies to be able to find new solutions, develop new products and implement new processes.

- Potential research partners for R + D projects.

- Organisations with know-how and expertise in specific renewable energy related fields.

The workshops discussed the following topics:

- Integrated, local, biomass-based renewable energy systems.
- Energy-efficient buildings, EU - building directive, solar and thermal energy.
- Contracting

The meeting started on Thursday, December 4, 2003, and ended on Friday, December 5. The official language of the conference was English.

Dr Sepp Rieder, Vice-Mayor of Vienna opened the plenary session. Then, Josef Proli of the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment, and Water Management, and Wolfgang Sebotka, member of the Lower-Austrian provincial government gave a lecture on the future challenges of the Central-European Region and the energy concept of the 6* Framework Programme. Dr Helmut Schreiber of World Bank spoke about the funding opportunities of Central-East European renewable energy projects.

During the afternoon session Mr. Kasimir Nemestothy of the Austrian Energy Agency held a thought-provoking workshop about biomass applications. In his presentation he sketched up the Austrian biomass situation, which is one of the most enviable in Europe. In the evening, the mayor of Vienna gave a cocktail party at city hall.

The next day the participants had informal get-togethers with other companies and institutions based on their technology and research profile.

We had a unique opportunity to visit Güssing, a small Austrian village, where energy comes entirely from renewables energy-sources! We visited the centre for renewable energy, the control centre of the biomass heating system, bio-gas power station, and rape oil based petrol station. We have seen many good examples, which could serve as a basis for solving our energy problems in Central-East Europe in the future.