

Introduction to collective research project BIOPROS

Solutions for the safe application of wastewater and sludge for high efficient biomass production in Short-Rotation-Plantations

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In September, 2005 a new EU FP6 collective research project “Solutions for the safe application of wastewater and sludge for high efficient biomass production in Short-Rotation-Plantations” (BIOPROS) started. The duration of the project is three years.

Collective research projects are focussing at improvement of the overall competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and SME intensive sectors. Therefore the field of scientific studies in these projects should support the local industrial associations and groupings of SMEs. The promoter of the current project was Bremerhaven Technology Transfer Centre (Germany), who gathered together 11 Industrial Associations (most of them national farmers’ organisations), 9 SMEs and 5 organisations, whose main activities involve research or technological development. The overall 25 partners of the project are from 12 EU Member of Candidate countries.

The main objective of the projects are promoting and increasing biomass production of Short Rotation Plantation (SRP) by reusing wastewater and sewage sludge. At the same time the efficiency of wastewater and sewage sludge usage in SRP without any environment pollution should be improved.

During the first stage of the project different activities are performed including studies about the legislation, resource availability, gaps of knowledge etc. on both international and national level. The practical achievements of the project involve:

- Field studies with N-rich wastewater, landfill leachate, log yard run-off (all performed in Sweden), sewage sludge (performed in Estonia), composted pig slurry (maybe performed in Estonia)
- Labscale tests with municipal sludge, landfill leachate (in Sweden), municipal wastewater (in Estonia), on crop selection (in Italy), on soil changes (in Poland)
- Demonstration sites – farmers’ fields in Bulgaria, Spain, Poland, Germany and Estonia. The first two of these are poplar plantations, the rest of them planted with willows.

Dissemination of the project results and achieved knowledge about the SRP biomass production possibilities will be carried out on different seminars/trainings for stakeholders. The project partners will also implement additional efforts in order to overcome the problems of the SRP biomass producers (gaps in local legislation, shortage of materials etc.).

<http://www.biopros.info>

