

Short Rotation Woody Crops (SRC) plantations for local supply chains and heat use

Project No: IEE/13/574



# ***Report on first training event for farmers in Latvia***

***WP 3 – Task 3.4 / D 3.5***

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SRCplus website: [www.srcplus.eu](http://www.srcplus.eu)

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## 1 Introduction

Training are organized in two paired parts – spring session and autumn session to cover both main stages of development of SRC as well management and harvesting – planting activities.

**Table 1: Training events for farmers in Latvia/Vidzeme**

Location	Date	Number of participants	Number of received questionnaires
“Pardenči” skrīveri, Latvia	2015.03.30.	~30	pending
Medemciems, Blijas, Latvia	Planned in 2015 .10.XX.	~30	N/a

## 2 Overview of training event first part

### 2.1 Summary

Aim of activity is to prepare the background for training activities for farmers in target region Vidzeme under a common concept. The general concept and basic training materials prepared in WP2 for the transfer of general know - how about SRC to farmers were recommended for future reading. As well other documents available on website ([www.srcplus.eu](http://www.srcplus.eu)):

- Analysis of the SRC production in the target countries (Task 2.1),
- SRC best practices (Task 2.2)
- Sustainability criteria for SRC (Task 2.4)
- Handbook on sustainable supply chains of SRC (Task 2.5)
- Analysis of the unexploited potential for SRC in the target regions (Task 6.1),
- Sustainable SRC in the target regions (Task 6.2),
- Implementation concepts for the set
- up of new SRC sites in the target regions (Task 6.3)
- Suitable areas for SRC production in the target regions (Task 6.4).

### 2.2 Feedback from participants

Participants were satisfied with seen on demo field and overview given during lecture at University of Agriculture. (see attached presentation)

### 3 Training event “Management of Short rotation coppice on agricultural fields”

#### 3.1 Basic information

Location/ Country: Latvia	Partner. LSFRI Silava	No. of event: 1
No. of participants: ~30	Place: Skriveri and Jelgava	Date: 30.03.2015.
Groups: Young farmers and foresters.		

#### 3.2 Topics of the training event:

The training activities were addressed the main following topics:

- Species of SRC and their characteristics
- SRC suitability depending on climate, environmental (e.g. water availability) and soil
- characteristics
- Agricultural practices: planting, growing and harvesting including
- sustainability issues
- Machinery types in each process
- Costs of planning, harvesting, machinery, agricultural business models
- CAP opportunities for SRC plantations
- Synergies of SRC with other land uses
- Multi-cropping with SRC
- Plantations of SRC in degraded, non-productive and unused lands
- Use of woodchips on the farm and marketing of woodchips

#### 3.3 Short summary: (goals, programme, feedback)

Training activity for young farmers in order to provide them reliable information, to mobilize national and regional potential for SRC and to increase the awareness and knowledge of young farmers.

#### 3.4 Event agenda (invitation and programme)

10 00 field visit at Skriveri introduction with tree species on field

14 00 informative part at Latvia University of Agriculture Forest Faculty

### 3.5 Event photos



Poplars



Hybrid aspen field



Willows



University

### 3.6 Others (media reports: newspapers, web page)

Information about project activity were posted at Latvia University of agriculture Forest faculty website <http://www.mf.llu.lv/aktualitates?op=raksts&id=818>

## 4 Evaluation of questionnaires

Training course was organized in spring. The second one will follow in October, where evaluation of course will be asked and analysis of it will be done.

## 5 Lessons learned and adjustment of training concept for farmers

Practical demonstration and field visits before the lecture is working well, as participants after such activities are more interested and have vision about things presented during the during lecture.