

Study Tour in Brittany



The 4th SRCplus project meeting took place in Rennes, France. AILE hosted the reunion and organised a remarkable study tour in the region of Brittany. The study tour comprised visits to a biogas plant, an SRC willow field, a presentation of a harvesting machine, and a presentation of one of the regional woodchip heating boilers.

The consortium met Mr. Dominique Rocaboy, a regional farmer and member of the Rural Initiative of Mené. The initiative was created in the late 90's for a group of regional farmers, conscious of the fragile line between the modern agricultural models and the negative environmental impacts, bringing farmers and non-farmers together to think about the problem of manure treatments.

Mr. Rocaboy led the consortium through the Géotexia biogas plant which uses regional wastes as substrates. The biogas plant produces electricity (13,800 MWh/year) and heat (14,400 MWh/year) for the region, and irrigates current SRC fields (6 ha) in the vicinity with the remaining water of the digestion (ca. 1,000 m³/ha). The irrigation infrastructure includes 3 km of underground pipes. The SRC willow field was recently harvested. The participants saw the stumps and the cut willows laid on the field for drying before they are converted into woodchips to be sold in the local market. The local woodchips are used to heat boilers in the municipalities of Mené, providing heat to public building and private households.

Since November 2013, 30 ha SRC have been planted. Thereby, 18 ha had been planted on water catchments with a subsoiler preparation. Each row has a density of 1,900 plants/ha, and consists of 70% Robinia and 30% Maple, 70% Robinia, 15% Maple and 15% Alder, and 50% willow and 50% Alder. 12 ha had been planted with a classic preparation and included 1,900 cuttings/ha in a row with a mix of 50% Robinia and 50% Willow.

In the end, the consortium had the opportunity to interact with members of the local initiative, local authorities, and stakeholders. The local stakeholders shared their knowledge and encouraged the consortium to keep supporting projects like SRCplus.

First seminar for small and medium woodchips in Vinkovci, Croatia

The first seminar for small and medium woodchip users and biomass producers was organised on 22 March 2016 in Vinkovci. The topics covered by the seminar included SRC in general, woodchip quality, biomass conversion technology, biomass project financing etc. Another goal was to emphasise potential benefits of biomass and outline successful projects. Discussion resulted in conclusion that biomass from SRC could be used in larger boilers with lower quality demands, while high quality woodchips are more appropriate for smaller boilers. The message

that the seminar wanted to deliver is that everyone can be a biomass producer, but it is important to have a biomass consumers. EIHIP is planning to organise a 2nd seminar on the same topic in autumn, this time in Osječko – Baranjska County.

The SRCplus project was also presented at International Agriculture Fair in Bjelovar, where handbooks were handed out to important government officials, relevant for SRC. Furthermore, Ms. Kulišić presented the project at the Regional conference for private forest owners of southeast Europe that was organised as a part of the Fair. Ms. Kulišić also presented the project at Wood-Technology conference in Opatija on 31st May. In November 2016, a second seminar for farmers will be organised in order to introduce the concept of SRC to farmers.



Harvesting SRC with a new prototype

Combined with a training for farmers and accompanied by a film crew of the Bavarian Television, the SRCplus plantation nearby the Biomass Trading Centre (BAT) was harvested in January 2016. The attending farmers could on the one hand get in contact with SRC experts and on the other hand could experience the new SRC harvesting prototype in action on the field. This new prototype can be mounted or fixed on a standard take-up of a tractor and therefore the usage is very flexible. The needed power of the tractor is with minimum 150 HP quite low. Another advantage of the chipper – which was developed by the [Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering Potsdam-Bornim](#) (ATB) – is that it can be transported upon a car trailer (weight of harvester: 1.5 to).



Because of the problematic soil and weather conditions, only about 1.4 ha of the full plantation (3.5 ha in total) have been harvested, but the achieved yield with round 45 t_{adm} (absolute dry matter / bone dry) was quite satisfying for the first harvest. This amount is almost the same like the value(s) from literature (see e.g. for growth: 8 t_{adm}/ha*a).

The produced fresh SRC wood chips have been immediately transported to the nearby located BAT, where they will be used in the heating plant of the municipality of Grassau. Because of being a best practice example and the innovative harvesting machine, the training and harvest of the SRC plantation was accompanied by a film crew of the Bavarian Television. The contribution of the film crew was broadcasted on Sunday, the 7th February 2016 within the BR-series “Schwaben & Altbayern” (Swabia & Old Bavaria) and also can be found on the homepage of the Biomass Trading Centre (only available in German; <http://www.biomassehof-achental.de/biomassehof-auf-you-tube.html>)

Second training for the public land owners in Zlín

The second training for the public land owners was recently organised in the Zlín Region.



Another seminar for public land owners took place in Zlín on April 20th with the participation of 53 public land owners, and representatives from the ecological organizations Arnika, Veronica and Bílé Karpaty. The main goal of the training was to transfer basic and advanced know-how of the SRC plantation. Besides sharing the knowledge in SRC field, the seminar helped to strengthen the cooperation among the Energy agency of the Zlín Region, public land owners, and other stakeholders within the Zlín Region.

Information day on quality issues of woodchips from SRCplus took place in Cesis, Latvia



The Information day was held in Vidzeme region on 14th of April 2016. The 21 participant took part of the training, including small/medium users and suppliers of wood fuels, technology producers and distributors, and procurement managers. Information and knowledge regarding the quality issues of woodchips from SRC were discussed and disseminated within the invited stakeholders. The agenda included topics related to quality criteria of solid biofuels and standards, quality of different origin wood fuels (in particular SRC), aspects related to the production, storage, transportation and use of SRC, and others.

Several events in Latvia were joined in order to promote SRCplus

Ekodoma and Silava joined several events in order to promote production and use of SRC, to gain new contacts, as well as to share information and knowledge.



Presentation at Development Commission of Cēsis Municipality on 24th of May 2016



Exhibition "Vidzeme entrepreneurs days 2016" on 20-21st of May in Valmiera



Presentation at Vecpiebalga on 11th of May 2016

Biomass crops A tool to prevent soil erosion?

On March 8th, 2016 a national meeting on biomass crops and their role to prevent soil erosion, organised by the Biomass and Territories Network (RMT Biomasse). AILE gave a speech on SRC linear implementation, also called **lignocellulosic strips**, that can play a significant role in limiting runoffs when implanted as a break of slope, or on the periphery of the plot on the grass strip used as buffer zone.

AILE presented two posters, one introducing the SRCplus project and the consortium, and the second poster introduced the SRC implementation strategies. The event was organized in Pays de Caux, Normandy, where the loamy soils are very susceptible to erosion.

SRC plus poster presentation :



The Western Road Department interested in the SRC implementation

On 3rd of March, AILE organised one training to work on SRC development at DIRouest sites (Western Road Department). The training took place in Loudéac, a Centre that experimented already with biomass valorisation for energy. In the city, two wood boilers (1MW and 2MW) could be fed with SRC production.

The training allowed the exchange on technical, economic and environmental issues on SRC. It was also an opportunity to visit fields that would be suitable for SRC plantations (photo 4, 5 and 6). The second training was conducted on April 18th, 2016 for Dirouest managers.



First training for farmers in Macedonia

The first training for farmers was held in April 2016 in Resen. 23 participants, representatives from two local agricultural organizations attended the training. Most of the participants were farmers who are working on food production in the region. The SRC management is not well known in the Republic of Macedonia, the following topics on SRC were presented to the farmers: introduction with SRC, species for SRC, SRC sustainability, agricultural practices, technology and equipment for cultivation and harvesting, benefits from SRC, and woodchips on farms and developing process of supplying local chains for woodchips. The training was led by Mr. Naumce Toskovski and Mr. Vasko Jovanovski, agronomists and representatives from the secondary school for agriculture in Resen, partner belonging to the SRC plus project consortium.



SRCplus in 'Agrotica 2016', Thessaloniki, Greece



From 28th to 31st of January 2016 CRES participated in the 'Agrotica 2016' agricultural fair. With over 1,454 participants, as compared to 1,349 in 2014, marking the largest number in its history, and foreign exhibitors coming from a record 41 countries, the 26th 'Agrotica' once again served as a point of reference for the rural development and the agricultural sector. The 26th Agrotica recognized as the largest agricultural fair in Southeast Europe and one of the five largest in Europe. During four days more than 500 project flyers and 120 copies of the handbook were delivered to the farmers promoting the SRCplus project, benefits for farmers and sustainable production of woody biomass for bioenergy exploitation.

For more information about the agricultural fair please visit the web-site <http://agrotica.helexpo.gr/en>

SRCplus parallel event the framework in 'Agrotica 2016', Thessaloniki, Greece



On the 29th of January 2016 in the framework of 'Agrotica 2016' agricultural fair an SRC plus event (workshop) was organized.

During the event presentations were focused on issues related to breeding of woody species for genetic improvement and production of biomass, experimental tests on biomass productivity of SRC conducted in the region of Kentriki Makedonia, economic benefits for farmers and environmental benefits, as well as, economics of SRC and agroforestry in the framework of the new CAP.

The event was covered by the web-tv of the Helexpo <http://webtv.helexpo.gr/index.php/2015-2/agrotica-2016>.

The video of parallel event of the agricultural fair is also available on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/embed/qbqT0sdNnxg>)

Rough information about all parallel events organized in agricultural fair you can find on the web-site http://agrotica.helexpo.gr/el/programme_el

SRCplus national seminar for farmers, Paramithia, Greece



On the 4th of April 2016 an SRC plus workshop for farmers was organized in the city of Paramithia (municipality of Souli).

Issues presented during the workshop were focused on the following topics: establishment and cultivation of SRC, use of wastewater for irrigation (national legal framework), criteria for sustainable production, species and varieties for SRC, economic benefits and environmental aspects, heat production from woodchips.

After the workshop, a round table was organized (evening session) and practical issues were discussed with farmers and their unions, the mayor and members of the council of municipality and local authorities responsible for the management of water resources in the area. The task of this round table was the development of a working scheme for the production of woodchips in private and public farms and the bioheat exolitation in buildings of the municipality.

The event was hosted by the municipality of Souli having also plans for installation of biomass heating systems in public buildings. For that reason, a visit in these buildings was organized on the evening of the 3rd of April, in order to analyze technical and management issues for development of a production and supply chain of biomass for heat production.

SRCplus consortium



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