

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

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Minutes
Best practice visits

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1 Introduction

The aim of the two best practice tours was to promote good practice examples of successfully implemented SRC examples / projects. Therefore farmers, public land owners and small and medium users of woodchips have been invited.

On the first study tour to South Tyrol, the participants had the possibility to gain knowledge mainly about the end use of the produced SRC woodchips and on the second one to Kolbermoor and Übersee in Bavaria, the focus was to highlight agricultural best practices, harvesting issues and the end optimised use of the woodchips.

The destination of the second study tour, which took place on 15th June 2016, was Kolbermoor and Übersee.

2 Invitation, Stakeholders and Content of both study tours

2.1 Invitation and participating stakeholders first study tour

Out of the SRC Plus target groups farmers, public land owners and small and medium users of woodchips shall be addressed to join the study tour. Therefore, several different stakeholders in the region Achenal have been invited (see Figure 1) to join the first study tour to South Tyrol.

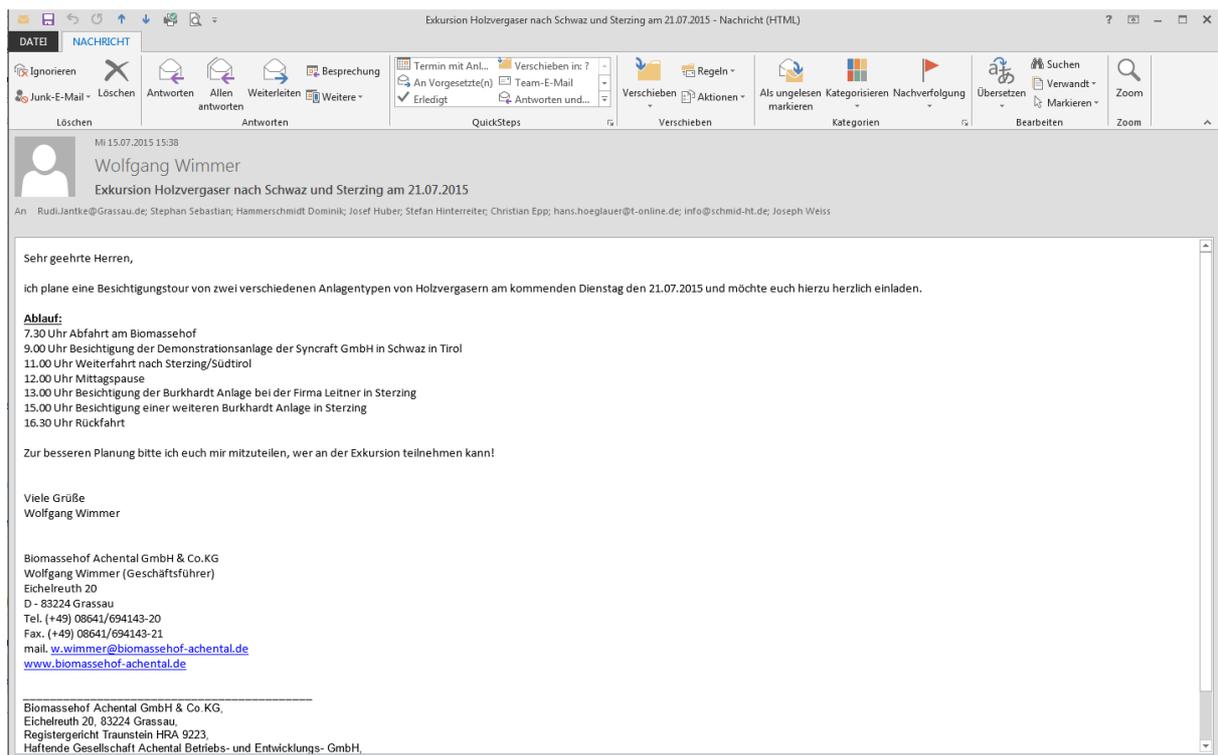


Figure 1: Invitation to the 1st study tour.

2.2 Programme of first study tour (South Tyrol)

The agenda of the first study tour to South Tyrol was as follows:

- 7:30 a.m.: Departure at the Biomass Trading Centre, Grassau
- 9:00 a.m.: Visit of the Syncraft GmbH at Schwaz in Tyrol
- 11:00 a.m.: Onward journey to Sterzing/South Tyrol
- 12.00 a.m.: Lunch
- 1:00 p.m.: Visit Company Leitner at Sterzing
- 3:00 p.m.: Visit of second site in Sterzing
- 4:30 p.m.: Return to Grassau

2.3 Invitation and participating stakeholders second study tour

Christian Kern, team-member of “LandSchafftEnergie” – an initiative of the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Media, Energy and Technology (<https://www.landschafftenergie.bayern/>) – contacted BAT because of information gained via the SRCplus homepage and the YouTube-channel of BAT about SRC. He wanted to get more information about SRC and about the SRCplus-project and the plantation at Übersee respectively. Due to a meeting, Wolfgang Wimmer and Dr. Stefan Hinterreiter have been out of business. Therefore, Christian Kern contacted Dr. Hinterreiter via Email (see Figure 2). According to the initial contact, both had a longer telephone call, agreeing in organizing a study tour focusing on SRC. Mr. Kern took care about inviting as many contact persons within his network and fixing the date at the various sites. Dr. Hinterreiter took care about the main program, part of the invitation and fixing the date at the SRC and BAT.

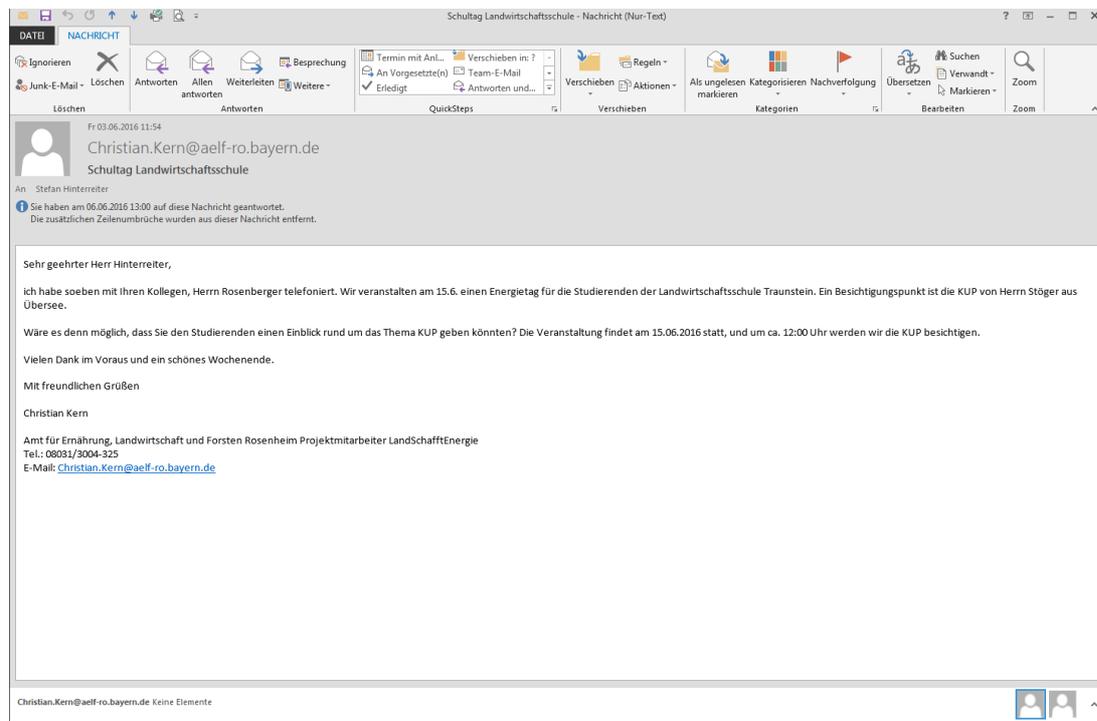


Figure 2: Initial contact between Christian Kern and Dr. Stefan Hinterreiter

2.4 Content of second study tour (Bavaria)

The agenda of the second study tour was as follows:

- 8:00 a.m. Departure at the Biomass Trading Centre, Grassau
- 9:00 a.m. Visit of the SRC-plantation and the biogas plant (for drying wood chips) nearby Kolbermoor
- 12:00 a.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Visit of the SRC-plantation at Übersee
- 2:30 p.m. Visit of the BAT storage and logistic facilities
- 4:00 p.m. End of study tour

3 Results

3.1 Study tour to South Tyrol

In the morning of the 21st June 2015, Wolfgang Wimmer welcomed the participants of the study tour at the Biomass Trading Centre and accordingly the tour group set out for (South) Tyrol. On the way to Sterzing, the first stop was performed at the city of Schwaz, where the participants had the possibility to visit the Syncraft GmbH. The company runs a wood gasifier, which provides electricity and heat to the site. After that the main destination Sterzing was the next stop. At Sterzing the company Leitner and some SRC plantations have been visited. Leitner is a leading company in the bioenergy and biomass logistics also producing wood chips from various resources. At both sites, the participants had the possibility to get in contact with the people in charge of the plant and so to gain knowledge from their hands- on experiences. According to the feedback of the tour group this information exchange was very interesting and helpful for the development of own SRC business concepts. The discussion and departing was followed by the travelling back to Grassau, where the participants arrived at 6 p.m. at the Biomass Trading Centre.

3.2 Study tour to Kolbermoor and Übersee

The group of participants met in the morning of the 15th June 2016 at the premises of BAT. Accordingly, the transit to Kolbermoor was on the agenda. In Kolbermoor, Theresa Streibl – member of the Department for Food, Agriculture and Forestry Rosenheim (“AELF Rosenheim”) – and Dr. Stefan Hinterreiter (BAT) welcomed the participants at the biogas plant (see Figure 9). The participants got a guided tour through the premises of the biogas plant including a drying container for SRC wood chips (see Figure 10) and the nearby SRC plantation of the Bavarian State Institute of Forestry (“LWF Bayern”). At the SRC plantation, several poplar clones have been planted as well as some willow species.

After lunch, the group moved on the SRC plantation nearby Übersee. On site, Dr. Hinterreiter gave an encompassing overview of the establishment, planting, maintenance work, harvesting and re-growing / coppicing of the SRC plantation (see Figure 12). All participants had the possibility to ask questions and most of them used it intensively. As all questions had been answered, the attendants moved on to the premises of the BAT. There, Wolfgang Wimmer gave a warm welcome to the participants and Dr. Hinterreiter guided all participants over the premises, focusing on relevant information about the influence of different (SRC) wood chip qualities and its final use.

Both Best Practice visits were selected to clearly document the technical maturity and economic profitability of SRC plantation, harvesting, drying and consumption in energy sites. Particularly, the gasification technologies on the first study tour highlighted the enormous potential of woodchips from SRC for decentralised and autonomous energy supply in the rural environment. The second study tour introduced the very important logistic step of drying the harvested woodchips through waste heat from a biogas plant.

4.2 Event photos first study tour



Figure 6: Wood gasifier at Schwaz



Figure 7: SRC woodchips used in the wood gasifier at Schwaz



Figure 8: Wood gasifier at Schwaz (2)

4.3 Event photos second study tour



Figure 9: Welcoming at the Biogas plant



Figure 10: Drying container (rec container in the back of the participants) for wood chips at the site of the biogas plant.



Figure 11: Participants at the SRC plantation at Übersee



Figure 12: Dr. Hinterreiter explaining and answering questions about SRC at the SRC plantation at Übersee