

Capacity building on SRC in a new market: Prespa, Macedonia

Final Workshop of the EU projects SRCplus and SUCELLOG

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SRC in Macedonia

Planting and growing SRC as an agricultural practice is a new challenge for the farmers, public land owners, also for the businesses which are working in agro sector and energy efficiency sector. The interest for SRC among all these subjects has increasing trend and the expertise and know-how inputs are more than necessary in the future.

In the past 36 months, SRC plus project was implemented in the region of Prespa (south-west part of Republic of Macedonia) and promoted sustainability in cultivation in order to inform interested stakeholders on how to set-up and manage SRC plantations in a best sustainable approach. Also the benefits of using woodchips, mostly for heating were effectively promoted.



Capacity building

The SRC plus project implementation in Macedonia has significant impact in the process of increasing awareness of SRC cultivation and use of woodchips for heating. As a result of planned trainings and workshop completion, experiences, best practices, know-how information were presented to the involved relevant stakeholders.

The awareness for SRC among the farmers, public land owners and users of woodchips was increased through capacity building program that was part of SRCplus project activities. All six planned trainings were successfully implemented and the feedbacks were obtained.



- Two trainings for farmers with total number of participants - 50 farmers from the region
- Two trainings for public land owners with total number of participants -29 representatives of public institutions and public enterprises from the region
- Two workshops for users of woodchips and pellets with total number of participants 35 representatives of business sector, households, hospital and school.
- Several round tables, informative day, national and regional workshop, presentations at agro fairs etc were implemented also.



General feedback, conclusions and recommendations for the future development on SRC in Macedonia attained from the trainings

- **Completion of national legislative for SRC as an agricultural crop for getting solid biomass**
- **Continuous increasing of expertise, exchange of knowledge and practices for SRC cultivation and woodchips production in the future**
- **Experimental plates to be developed in more regions in Macedonia for learning on SRC production**
- **Establishing contacts with more nursery for SRC cuttings/seedlings providers (from abroad) for importing health and high quality of plant material**
- **The chain connection between involved stakeholders in SRC production and use of woodchips, to be strengthened (producers, transporters, harvesters, users, producers of pellets etc...).**



Results and impacts of capacity building program

- The results can be seen in the improvement process of establishing new SRC plantations in the region. The handbook which was created during the project implementation is very important educative tool for farmers supporting their efforts in process of cultivating SRC. The impact of the project among the farmers will be more obvious as a result of small demonstrative SRC set established by the school as a project partner in Macedonia.



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- There are positive results among the public institutions. A school, a hospital and municipal building made replacement of oil boiler with woodchips and pellets boiler. Taking in consideration the tax decrease for woodchips boilers as an energy efficiency national measure on 5%, it is expected that replacement of oil boilers will become more usual practice in the near future and that will bring bigger demand for woodchips or pellets.
- The SSA Resen established contacts for cooperation with interested nursery for SRC from Italy for establishing experimental plantation in the school with poplar. The essential details of cooperation are in progress negotiations



Republic of Macedonia as a new market

The benefits from SRC cultivation are positively seen from economical, environmental, social and health aspects. As a low-input agricultural practice and increased demand of solid wood biomass in the regional markets, also as a part of national strategy for energy efficiency, SRC production has big perspective to be successfully developed in Macedonia.



There are appropriate conditions for SRC investments by domestic and foreign investors:

- **Excellent climate conditions**
- **lot of free land (marginal land, abandoned land, good agricultural land)**
- **the price of the land is low at the moment, no matter of the it's classification**
- **not expensive labor force**
- **good conditions for doing business for domestic and foreign investors (tax releases, cheap land concessions)**



- subsidies for planting SRC
- subsidies for buying boilers for heating (woodchips, pellets, wood) for households, institutions, farmers, business etc - 50% of the total investment
- There are programs for co-financing for farmers and agro companies for buying agricultural equipment from 50% to 75% of the total investment (including the national rural development program and IPARD program from the EU funds).



Thank you for your attention



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