

Cooperation with farmers: SRC in Kentriki Makedonia Region, Greece

Ioannis Eleftheriadis

Biomass dept.

CRES

Aim of this work

- Implementation of capacity building activities for farmers (+ private land owners)
- Increment of the competence of farmers in sustainable SRC production
- Organisation of capacity building activities
 - Networking activities with farmers' associations
 - Promotion of SRC at agricultural fairs
 - Training courses
 - agricultural practices
 - sustainable SRC production
 - Study tours
 - Dissemination of WP2 outcomes (sustainable production and supply of wood chips from SRC)

Promotion of SRC to farmers at agricultural fairs

- Implementation of 'awareness & networking' activities and promotion of SRC benefits for farmers
- A *SRCplus* project stand & dissemination
 - **Flyers** (in English and **7 national languages**)
 - **Posters**
 - **WP2 deliverables (D2.3)**

Promotion of SRC to farmers at agricultural fairs



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Regional meetings with farmers

Main Responsible Partner	Meetings	Explanation	Public outreach/number of participants
CRES	17.03.2016, meeting with farmers association in Thessaloniki and Pieria	Presentation of SRCplus project, distribution of SRC flyers, contribution on seminars for farmers, discussion about conversion of poplar plantations to SRC	2
	20.10.2016, meeting with farmers association in Nigrita	Presentation of SRCplus project, distribution of SRC flyers, contribution on seminars for farmers	5
	21.10.2016, meeting with union of farmers association of Serres	Presentation of SRCplus project, distribution of SRC flyers, contribution on seminars for farmers	5



Regional meetings with farmers



Training courses for farmers

- Topics of training activities:
 - Species of SRC and their characteristics
 - SRC suitability
 - Agricultural practices
 - Machinery types for each process
 - Costs
 - CAP opportunities for SRC plantations (if available in national level)
 - Synergies of SRC with other land uses
 - Multi-cropping
 - Plantations of SRC in degraded, non-productive and unused lands
 - Use of woodchips and marketing issues

Training courses for farmers



Good practice visits



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Lessons learned

Low	Moderate	High
Results from research activities	Adaptability of species	Species, varieties and clones
Land use and synergies with other land uses	Weather/climatic conditions	Pests, disease, weeds
Biodiversity	Soils properties	Nutrition and fertilization
Landscape	Water	Water needs and irrigation
Preparation of soil	Sustainable agricultural practices on SRC cultivation	Yields and productivity
Planting techniques and design	Harvesting and rotation cycle	Harvesting of wood chips
Crop management and Weed control (mechanical, chemical)	Effective use of inputs such as soil, nutrients, water, fertilisers etc	Logistics of wood chips (storage, transport, delivery)
Planting machinery	Crop failure due to biotic agents	Harvesters (chip harvesting, whole rod harvesters, bio-balers, billet harvesters)
Weed control machinery	Shortage of water for irrigation	Costs of SRC
Irrigation equipment	Maintenance of soil fertility	National legislation and authorities for CAP opportunities
Planting		SRC in degraded, non-productive and unused lands
Crop management		
Narrowing of space available for weeds		

Conclusions

- Advantages in plain arable lands (e.g. lower cost)
- Arable lands with marginality issues
- Materials cost (planting, irrigation) + Machinery cost (harvesting)
- Areas with water availability
- Farmers prefer SRC under subsidy schemes
- Rotation period ~12 years
- Plantation density 2 to 4 m
- Positive to participate in further actions



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Thank you for your attention!

Comments ...

Ioannis Eleftheriadis

Biomass dept., CRES

Tel. +30 210 6603384, +30 210 6603300

Fax. +30 210 6603301

Email: joel@cres.gr

www.cres.gr