Newsletter: November 2015

SRC plantations for local supply chains and heat use

www.srcplus.eu

Best practice visit took place in Latvia

The SRCplus project organised a best practice visit on 23rd September 2015 at experimental fields in Skriveri district, Latvia. Poplar, willow, alder, aspen, wild cherry and perennial energy gras plantations were visited by over eighty (80) stakeholders. Practical field demonstrations included demonstration of mechanised planting, small-scale manual harvesting and chipping.

More information about the best practice visit is now available on the SRCplus website.

SRCplus at the conference on "Mobilisation of Woody Biomass for Energy and Industrial use" in Rome

The conference on Mobilisation of woody biomass for energy and industrial use was organised on 19th May 2015 in Rome at the FAO headquarters by INFRES, LogistEC and EuroPrunning projects. At the conference, a SRCplus project poster was presented, and a short SRC survey was conducted in order to assess the general view and public perception regarding SRC. Seventy (70) surveys could be filled out by face-to-face conversations. The results of the survey will be available soon.

New SRC plantations established in Achental

In the region of Achental (Germany), three new SRC plantations have been established. In Schuhegg, the seedlings were planted by hand. This was done manually because of the size and the shape of the plot. This SRC plantation serves as an example for the production of wood chips and as a nutrient retention for nutrient-rich surface water, which is collected in basins. Beside the basins, different poplar species, red alder and shrubs have been planted in order to absorb the nutrients, which are in the surface water.

In Vogtareuth and St. Leonhard, a mechanical seeding machine was used to plant the seedlings, and on this occasion, the first SRCplus training events for farmers took place.

A video on the mechanical planting is available on Youtube.

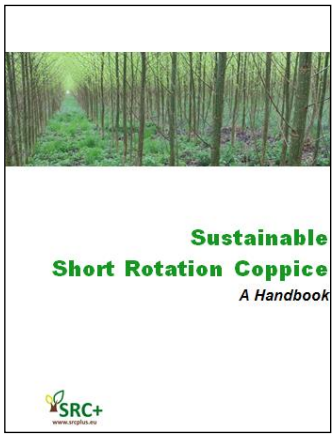
AILE joins the SRCplus constortium

The Association of Local Initiatives in the field of Energy and Environment (AILE) has joined the SRCplus consortium and will implement the project activities in the region of Brittany in France. AILE is a local energy agency working on renewable energies and energy savings in agricultural and rural areas of Western France. In addition, AILE has expertise on biomass valorisation, with a special focus on Short Rotation Coppice of willow, development of woodchips boilers and supply chains. AILE was a partner of the WILWATER LIFE Environment programme which aimed to demonstrate the purification properties of Short Rotation Coppice of Willow and the economic as well as environmental advantages of this method.

French potable water legislation focus on SRC

In France, the cultivation of SRC is forbidden on potable water supply protection areas, as pesticides are usually used during the first year of cultivation. In June 2015, AILE has been asked by regional public health authorities to present SRC cultivation practices without pesticides (using mulching foils) in order to influence a change in the legislation and to support farmers in the areas to plant SRC. Communities which are equipped with wood boilers in these water catchment areas could benefit if the legislation is changed.

SRCplus Handbook on Sustainable Short Rotation Coppice is published



As a major output of the SRCplus project, a handbook on “Sustainable Short Rotation Coppice” was elaborated in order to provide an overview on SRC plantation and use of SRC products for heat. The handbook addresses farmers, public land owners, small utilities of heat and CHP, woodchip traders as well as other relevant stakeholders. The added value of the handbook is the focus on sustainable supply chains and SRC benefits that are often not known to the stakeholders.

The Handbook was elaborated by WIP Renewable Energies and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in collaboration with other project partners. The publication is already available for download on the project website in English, German, Czech, Greek and Croatian. Currently the Handbook is being translated into French, Macedonian and Latvian, and it will be available for download soon.

First experimental SRC cuttings planted in Macedonia

During June 2015, around one hundred and fifty (150) SRC cuttings of poplar were planted at the school of Agro Experimental field in Prespa, Republic of Macedonia. This activity is part of the SRCplus project action and the aim is to provide real examples of SRC cultivation for participants in the SRCplus training courses.



SRCplus consortium

WIP Renewable Energies, Germany

Biomassehof Achental, Germany

Secondary School Car Samoil - Resen, Macedonia

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

Latvian State Forest Research Institute Silava, Latvia

Association of Local Initiatives in the field of Energy and Environment

EIHP, Croatia

EKODOMA, Latvia

CRES, Greece

Energy Agency of the Zlin region, Czech Republic

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