

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

Project No: IEE/13/574



2nd training for farmers

30.03.2016

“Pardenči”

Skriveri Parish

WP 3 – Task 3.5

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1 Introduction

Venue, time, location, attendants:

- Aim of the training -to introduce Young farmers and foresters with possibilities to produce bioenergy from SRC and another kind of tree plantings on agriculture land
- March 30 2016, Pardenči , Skriveri (willows, poplars, aspens, grey alders, black alders, birches, wild cherry, lime, mapple)
- 21 participant



2 Involved stakeholders

Strategy for stakeholder involvement:

- Young farmers and foresters were approached as more innovation open group of stakeholders (invitation were done through university of agriculture and addressed to the students and they parents, relatives and friends in informal way) ;
- The main stakeholder groups present at the training are students and farmers (participant own properties in while Latvia including Vidzeme region, SRC is new crop in Latvia and young persons are more open to changes in traditional way of farming, including growing of “lazy” crops, which needed to be harvest in once in 3-15 years).

3 Results

The course of the training evaluated good mostly 4 and 5 marks received.

Main points of the discussion were sustainability issues, because agriculture land is validated

The results of the questionnaires is very satisfying. Trainees highlighted in comment parts following remarks related to each topic:

Species for SRC

A lot of comments that it were reasonable to held training on field because in that manner We could to show a lot of best practice and some faults in real conditions.

SRC suitability

Some doubts about SRC and Melioration drainage systems.

Agricultural practices

Not all of farmers before that were familiar with those crops – SRC trees, the saw them first!

Machinery types

Machines just on pictures – participants wanted to see real harvesting and planting.

Costs

To high cost – to start the business. It seems a good business. Let see how much will harvest first pioneers!

SRC & sustainability

Good solution for catchments!

SRC in degraded lands

I had no idea to use SRC for that, thanks for encouragement!

Use of woodchips

Power plants are familiar with wood chips from abandoned lands it looks similar , should not be problems.

Farmers know well wood ships as products, because some of them use that biofuel in farm. impression of the training is good, main lessons learning are :

Species for SRC

Opportunity to see all SRC species in real life conditions works well.

SRC suitability

Establishment cost is main limiting factor to have more SRC planting in Latvia Rural areas

Agricultural practices

SRC cultivation fits very well in existing agricultural practices and agriculture.

Despite of plenty of informative materials farmers are not informed about SRC, we need to come and to take part in agricultures sector and energy sector events, less focus on foresters.

Machinery types

Forest and communal machines could be used for SRC management And bioenergy production.

Costs

Farmers have doubts to establish. SRC because of high investments, some an additional use of first harvest to get first incomes should be offered, like twigs for handcraft etc.

SRC & sustainability

Handbook help to explain that topic a lot!

SRC in degraded lands

We need to establish some demo objects!!

Use of woodchips

Farmers know well wood chips as products, because some of them use that biofuel in farm.

4 Annex

Training agenda

Explanation on field with demonstration where it is possible and by using of handouts following topics we started at 9:00, had one break and continued till 16 00:

SRC suitability depending on climate, environmental (e.g. water availability) and soil characteristics

Agricultural practices: planting, growing and harvesting including sustainability issues

Machinery types in each process

Costs of planning, harvesting, machinery, agricultural business models

CAP opportunities for SRC plantations

Synergies of SRC with other land uses

Multicropping with SRC

Plantations of SRC in degraded , non-productive and unused lands

Use of woodchips on the farm and marketing of woodchips

Evaluation scale an numbers of answers given

Trainees were asked to evaluate topic from 1-5 points whe 5 is the best!

2nd training – 21 person	1	2	3	4	5
Species of SRC and their characteristics			1	1	19
Costs of planning, harvesting, machinery, agricultural business models				11	10
Machinery types in each process			2	1	18
Costs of planning, harvesting, machinery, agricultural business models				11	10
CAP opportunities for SRC plantations				17	4
Synergies of SRC with other land uses			1	6	14
Multicropping with SRC				10	11
Plantations of SRC in degraded , non-productive and unused lands				5	16
Use of woo dchips on the farm and marketing of woodchips				12	9
Total			4	74	111

Training material (presentations)

The same training materials, as in the first training school, were presented.

http://www.srcplus.eu/images/Latvia_materials_farmers.pdf

Students were introduced with content of:

1. **Handbook on Sustainable Short Rotation Coppice**
http://www.srcplus.eu/images/Handbook/Handbook_2016-05-30-final_website_Latvian.pdf
2. **National sustainability criteria and recommendations for SRC**
http://www.srcplus.eu/images/SRCplus_D2_4_Ilgtspējibas_kriteriji_LV_Eko_Silava.pdf
3. **SRC production in 7 European countries**
http://www.srcplus.eu/images/SRC_Production.pdf