

Short rotation crops developments in Denmark

A five year national energy crop research programme has now been reported to the Danish government with a main conclusion that 'no serious agronomic or technical barriers have been found towards the production and utilisation of energy crops, and it is suggested that the next step towards a large scale implementation of energy crops in the energy system should be a full scale demonstration project'.

Two commercial companies are doing a business in energy crops in Denmark. At 'Ny Vraa Bioenergy' willow establishment is done in Denmark and France, and harvesting with the Claas-system has been done in Denmark, Belgium and France. A major wood-company has shown interest in establishing a very large willow area in order to produce their own biomass resource, as they fear that the Danish and European biomass energy strategies will increase the market competition. Considerable effort is put into development of pellets and briquettes from willow, as this is a booming market in Denmark. Ny Vraa expects a breakthrough in the manufacturing technology soon. At 'Nordic Biomass' the new developed tracked harvesting machine has successfully been used for commercial harvest of willow, and new promising SW clones are marketed. The miscanthus planting concept is now fully commercially available. NB has bought its own rhizome-picker (a modified potato-picker), and has improved its rhizome-planter. The company will extend its mother-fields for rhizome-production, and a few ha will be planted at the Renewable Energy Island Samsøe to supplement the planting of 2001. Like in year 2001 rhizomes are exported to the UK in April 2002. Prices of the planting concept are dependent of size of project and distance for transporting rhizomes.