



IEA Bioenergy

Short Rotation Crops for Bioenergy Systems: Task 30

Newsletter

Number 1, April, 2002

Editorial

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Welcome to this the first Task Newsletter of the new Triennium. A special welcome to our newest member Brazil, represented by Dr. Laercio Couto and regretfully we farewell the Netherlands, with special thanks to Leen Kuiper for his contributions to the task.. We also welcome Don McGuire as the Australian representative replacing Tom Baker who has stood down because of work commitments. Thanks for your contributions too Tom.

Note the next meeting is a combined meeting with Task 31 to be held in Brazil in October 2002. The theme is *Sustainable Bioenergy Production Systems* Can you present a paper?, abstracts are due. See information on web: www.ieabioenergy.co.nz/events/Brazil2002 Information for the next newsletter would be most appreciated.

Ian Nicholas

TASK DESCRIPTION

"Short Rotation Crops" means woody crops such as willows, poplars, Robinia and Eucalyptus with coppicing abilities, as well as lignocellulosic crops such as reed canary grass and Miscanthus.

Objectives: The objective of the short-rotation crop Task is to meet the needs of bioenergy industries through technical improvement of biomass crop production technologies, through documenting and disseminating information on the potential environment benefits of biomass crop production systems, and through developing information to enhance market development in collaboration with the private sector.

The overall aim is to further develop the existing short rotation biomass production systems, improve the awareness of the bioenergy production potential of the concept

and promote the use of biomass for energy in participating countries.

The intention is to strengthen the contact and cooperation between scientists, biomass producers, machine developers, entrepreneurs in the production chain and end users with the aim to improve the understanding of the problems and find means to solve them.

TASK LEADER COMMENTS

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Coming events:

BRAZIL CONFERENCE

You can register online for Sustainable Bioenergy Production Systems International Workshop by visiting <http://www.ieabioenergy.co.nz/events/Brazil2002>

IEA TASK 30 MANAGEMENT TEAM

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IEA TASK 30 MEMBERS

- Australia: Don McGuire
- Brazil: Lauricio Couto
- Canada: Andrew Gordon
- Croatia: Davorin Cajba
- Denmark: Uffe Jorgensen
- New Zealand: Ian Nicholas
- Sweden: Theo Verwijst
- United Kingdom: John Seed
- USA: Lynne Wright

Budget

Task participation currently has an annual cost of US\$ 13,200.

Work Programme

During the Task-30 meeting in Denmark, it was decided to establish working groups around identified 'high priority areas', and to specify and link up with national bioenergy programmes. The high priority areas and organisation of the work within these gained shape, although some details on all participants is required.

The high priority areas discussed were:

- Large-scale implementation of production systems for energy purposes.
- Economic externalities of short rotation cropping systems.
- Carbon management
- Nutrient- and water use efficiency of biomass production systems.
- Development of logistics to process SRC and agricultural crop residues.
- Applications combining biomass production and phytoremediation.
- Development of whole-chain assessment methods, e.g. LCA.
- Policy instruments (incentives, regulations, legislation) to boost bioenergy and assessment of their effectiveness.

- A Task Leadership meeting (Tasks 30 and 31) was held in Uppsala, March 21, to initiate discussions on further collaboration and identify Brazilian contacts.
- A Task Leadership meeting (Task 30 and 31) was held in Brazilia, to further explore joint interests between Tasks and to meet up with potential Brazilian counterparts.
- A Task-30 meeting was held at the Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences (DIAS) at Research Centre Foulum, Tjele, Denmark, during September 22-25, 2001, directly before the NOBIO-bioenergy-2001-conference in Denmark. This Task meeting focussed on the political and technical status of energy crops in Denmark and included an informative excursion in Jutland.



PROGRESS

Interactions with IEA Bioenergy Tasks and Others

Task 30 management have had several meetings with Task 31 to develop the joint meeting for Brazil. These occurred during summer and in August 2001 and has been initiated during a meeting in August 2001. Co-operation between on the one hand Task 30 and on the other hand the IUFRO groups "Short rotation forestry" (1.09.00) and "Poplars and Willows " (2.08.04) has been discussed. Preparations for a joint meeting (IEA-IUFRO) have started (www-conference.slu.se/ips3). Contacts also have been made with the International Poplar Commission (IPC) and an active involvement of an IPC-working party has been secured. Possible co-operations between Task 30 and the above mentioned organisations will be exploited further wherever possible.

Meetings

Pune Botanist Bags World's Biggest "Green" Prize

Source:

<http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/003/X9192E/x9192e04.htm>

LONDON, ENGLAND., March 14, 2002: An Indian botanist with a passion for converting the tough, traditionally useless leaves of the sugar cane plant into fuel as won the world's largest renewable energy and conservation prize and a cool US\$50,000 to fund his work in rural Maharashtra.

Within hours of winning the Ashden Awards, Pune-based botanist Dr. A. D. Karve told The Times of India the prize would help his pioneering work "because

Indians only pay attention and give respect to an idea once the West praises it."

The West, apparently, is over the moon about the sheer simplicity and dogged determination of Karve's idea, which offers an Indian solution to a uniquely Indian problem, that of providing a clean source of renewable energy with the waste materials to hand. "He's doing absolutely wonderful things," raved Maya Vaughan of the Ashden Awards, which offer crucial support to developing countries like India for indigenous ways of generating and using green fuel. Karve's clean fuel beat off tough competition from Tanzania, Zambia and Kenya, each of which suggested new ways of using solar energy to improve their people's lives. The method, described at "source" above, chars sugar cane trash in an

oven without igniting it. The resulting "char" is made into charcoal briquettes as good as any. The method isn't especially efficient, but since the trash is free, it is economically viable.

REPORTS FROM TASK 31

Notes from the Task Leadership meeting (Tasks 30 and 31) held in Uppsala, 2001 03 21.

Notes from the Task Leadership meeting (Task 30 and 31), Brazilia, August 25- September 03, 2001.





Minutes from the Task-30 meeting held in Denmark, September 22-25, 2001.

Jørgensen, U., and Schelde, K. 2001. Energy crop water and nutrient use efficiency (prepared for Task 17).

Papers presented at the Task 30 meeting in Denmark (Sept. 24, 2001), under the heading 'Energy crops in Denmark - political and technical status':

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[ee.org/myCADET/index.php](http://www.caddet-ee.org/myCADET/index.php) There are some diverse energy topics covered in the newly released technical brochures this month. Solar power and sailing from Australia and a new, compact wood-fuel heating system in an 11th century priory in the UK.



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focuses on the new Web site. All aspects of its products and function are discussed and explained providing a clear picture on what the Web site can provide you as a user.