

# Hungarian Biomass Cluster

**The Hungarian Biomass Cluster was established on the initiative of Innostart Foundation on 30.01.2006. with the participation of a number of private and public entities operating in the area.**

The Hungarian Biomass Cluster was created by ten founding-members, each being a relevant player of the national biomass sector, who have recognized the benefits of a joint representation of interests.

The cluster is open to all private and legal entity, devoted to the promotion and dissemination of biomass, as renewable energy source, solutions.

The members consider the energy, obtained from biomass, primarily important in the fight against global climate change and, also, for the strengthening of European energy safety. In accordance with the priorities of the European biomass energy action plan, they believe that biomass offers Europe new opportunities to reduce its dependence on fossil resources.

Hungary, being a traditional agrarian country, has an exceptionally good biomass potential which the cluster aims to take advantage of in a number of ways.

## **Actions and plans of the cluster:**

- Joint PR and marketing activity (image creation, representation of cluster at various events, etc.)
- Design and development of web portal to facilitate internal and external communication
- Exchange of best practices and technologies to foster the development of biomass actors
- Development of database to facilitate information flow between cluster members, to expand business opportunities and encourage co-operations and to ensure access to supplier, logistics, innovation and production data in the full spectrum of biomass utilization
- Effective transmission of demands and capabilities inherent in the cluster inside and outside the cooperation network
- Definition of learning and training demands focusing on the development of biomass technical capacities; coordination and organization of resulting tailored-made trainings
- Utilization of the agro-centre in Polgardi as an environmental and technology demonstration facility
- Contribution to the preparation of biomass strategies and studies
- Establishing cooperation with international biomass clusters
- Preparation and submission of joint proposals in the area of renewable energies, with especial attention to biomass energy
- Development of a learning syllabus for the players of the biomass/bio gas/bio diesel supply chains at local level and for the players of the bio-ethanol supply chain at country level
- By the end of 2007, the cluster is anticipated to have 50 members

## Events

- General assembly: 2 general assemblies have been held for the cluster members till this date to enable discussions on the cluster's operation and its future actions and also to make related decisions
- Expert group meetings: cluster members with the same interest and operational area hold and participate in meetings on a regular basis to develop strategic concepts for the facilitation of biomass utilization. Some of these events are organized by Innostart, as coordinator, others by other professional organizations active in the biomass and/or energy fields
- Business Angels Club: Innostart organized a business angels club event in the frame of Energoexpo 2007, where innovative biomass project owners were given the opportunity to introduce their products, services or concepts to the invited investors. The event was attended by 25 participants
- Electronic assemblies: in case physical attendance of the partners is not attainable

## Results

- The cluster has at the moment 37 active members, each involved in biomass related activities
- Business contacts: the cluster brought together experts and companies that had no previous business contacts with each other. This resulted in the development of joint strategies, the determination of co-operation opportunities and joint actions
- Facilitating the involvement of capital: through the cluster's operation promising biomass project ideas and opportunities were identified. These were first given professional assistance to make them presentable and were subsequently introduced to business inventors.
- Formulation of partnerships: since the creation of the cluster, its members joined forces in a number of operations to initiate biomass related actions
- With the help of the cluster members, best practice cases were identified and collected that are used to improve on the present biomass relevant legislative and operational issues
- Dissemination actions launched helped to understand the importance and utilization of biomass resources and made the general public aware of the opportunities and benefits they can bring to the economy

## Future actions

Building on the results and successful co-operation actions, the cluster in this phase is contemplating the expansion of its operations in a number of new areas:

- shifting emphasis onto bio-fuel production utilizing biomass resources
- building and strengthening relationship with similar foreign groupings, clusters
- development of a biomass/bio-fuel technology platform
- preparation of joint proposals for the utilization of the country's biomass resources (potential)
- development of a platform for the facilitation of biomass related investments