



# Biomass Energy Europe

Newsletter 1, December 2008



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This is the first issue of the BEE newsletter. BEE newsletters will appear irregularly in line with BEE project’s work progress. The BEE newsletters intend to inform users and providers of biomass resource assessments on the BEE project activities that aim at a harmonisation of resource assessments on the availability of biomass for energetic use.

This issue covers the status, activities and first results of the BEE project. You will also find information on the BEE ‘twin-project’ CEUBIOM and on upcoming events related to bioenergy.

## BEE in short

### Funding:

Seventh Framework Programme of the European Communities (FP7), *GRANT AGREEMENT N° 213417*

### Research area:

ENERGY-2007-3.7-01 Harmonisation of biomass resource assessment

### Objective:

To contribute to a harmonisation, consistency, accuracy and reliability of biomass resource assessments that focus on the availability of biomass for energy in Europe and its neighbouring regions.

### Project duration:

March 2009 – November 2011

### BEE Partners:

16 partners from 9 European countries, see [www.eu-bee.com](http://www.eu-bee.com)

### Cooperation:

Besides its technical activities BEE seeks the cooperation with projects and institutions that work on the issue of the availability of biomass for energetic use. BEE has currently established cooperation's with UN-ECE/FAO timber section (<http://www.unece.org/timber/>), the 'twin project' CEUBIOM ([www.ceubiom.org](http://www.ceubiom.org)) and with the project AQUATERRE <http://www.aquaterre.info/>.

### Major Activities

The project activities will include

- (i) the analysis of recently conducted biomass resource assessments,
- (ii) the analysis of policy backgrounds, sustainability criteria and user requirements,
- (iii) the analysis of currently applied methodologies,
- (iv) an inventory of data sources and ongoing activities aimed at improved data quality and accessibility,
- (v) a proposal for a harmonised biomass potential assessment methodology,
- (vi) an illustration and validation of the developed approach in case studies at EU-27, the Pan-European level and for select countries,
- (vii) an evaluation of the harmonised approach and – if necessary – the identification of priorities for further development.

The major focus will be both on methodological and dataset harmonisations fostered by ongoing research of a multidisciplinary team of project participants, and on the opportunities of utilising both earth observation and terrestrial data for biomass assessments and the integration of multiple data sources.

**More information on the BEE work plan and on single BEE work packages can be found at the BEE website: [www.eu-bee.com](http://www.eu-bee.com)**

## BEE project status

By now the status of biomass resource assessments has been analysed and the corresponding report is available (see section "Status of biomass resource assessments" of this newsletter). A first step of the analysis of the policy background has also been made; currently a questionnaire on the user's requirements is under preparation. The corresponding report on the policy background and user requirements will be published in 2009.

Current working focus is the analysis of selected biomass resource assessments with focus on data and methods with the objective to identify the major critical issues that lead to the large divergence and uncertainty of assessments on the availability of biomass for energetic use.

The major next step, starting in 2009, will then be the work on possibilities for a harmonisation of biomass resource assessments that will result in a data & methods handbook.

## Status of biomass resource assessments

First results on the status of biomass resource assessment are now available via the report **“Status of biomass resource assessments – Version 1”**.

A set of 144 selected key assessments at the global, European, regional, and national scale have been studied, with focus on the different specific biomass categories. An extensive overview was compiled by characterising approach, methodology, geographical coverage, time frame, estimated potential, as well as strengths and weaknesses for each individual assessment. Particular attention was paid to the type of potential assessed, differentiating between theoretical, technical, economic, implementation, and environmentally sustainable potential.

The review showed that differences between the reported potentials are very high, especially for the studies at European and global scale (Figure 1). In some cases the potentials differ more than threefold. As an example, for the key studies on forestry and forestry residues at international level, the total range between the lowest and highest estimation was found to be 651.2 PJ/yr. There are several reasons for such big deviations, most important heterogeneity in methodological approaches and datasets used, heterogeneous assumptions on system-external factors that influence potentials of estimating (future) biomass production and availability, inconsistent definitions of

biomass types and potentials, inconsistent conversion and expansion factors, and lack of consistent and detailed data on biomass production, utilisation and land productivity. Scenario assumptions have a strong influence on results of projections of biomass potentials. Especially studies where scenarios define extreme parameters give a very wide range of results.

There is a clear need for harmonisation of biomass assessments. Comparability of assessments would be significantly improved by using consistent terminology and definitions of biomass types. Also the usage of standardised reference scenarios would contribute to a harmonisation between assessments. More efforts have to be put into systematisation of biomass resources and standardisation of terminology to create a transparent framework for biomass assessments. The elaboration of widely recognised sustainability criteria for biomass production will create a common basis for estimations of environmental compatible biomass potentials.

During the project life time the report will be updated two times by including newly published studies.

**The report “Status of biomass resource assessments – Version 1” is available at the BEE website: [www.eu-bee.com](http://www.eu-bee.com)**

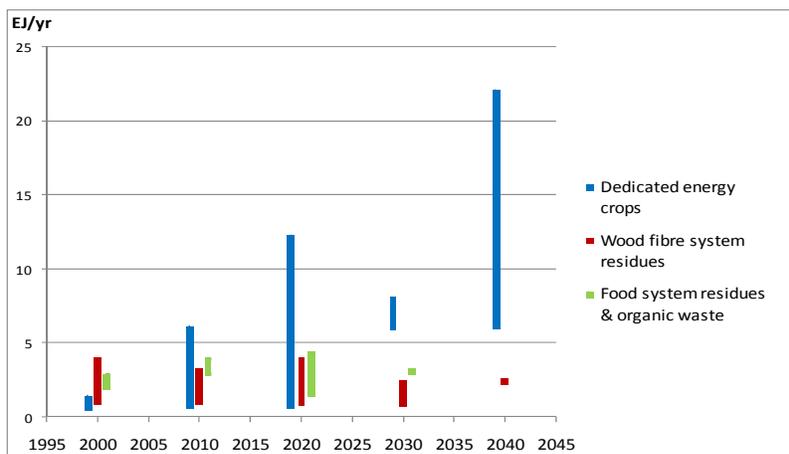


Figure 1: Range of biomass energy potentials at EU27 level reported by the reviewed key assessments.

## Dissemination activities

BEE tries to reach a wide range of interested parties in Europe. After the launch of the project website ([www.eu-bee.com](http://www.eu-bee.com)), the BEE team has developed a **BEE Project Brochure in English** and is currently preparing flyers in many more languages: **Bosnian, Croatian, Dutch, Finnish, German, Greek, French, Macedonian, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, and Ukrainian.**

The leaflets will be distributed to stakeholders of the respective regions in Europe.

**Most of these flyers are already available at the BEE website: [www.eu-bee.com](http://www.eu-bee.com)**

## BEE at conferences & events

### **EUROPEAN FOREST WEEK, FAO, Rome, Italy, 21-24 October 2008**

Within the session "Policy Dialogue on Potential Sustainable Wood Supply in Europe" BEE contributed the presentation "Bioenergy for Europe – Supply scenarios" (held by Matthias Dees, University of Freiburg). The presentation and more information on the event is available at: <http://www.unece.org/timber/docs/tc-sessions/tc-66/pws.htm>

### **INTERNATIONAL BIOMASS CONFERENCE, Kiev, Ukraine, 22–24 September 2008**

The 4th International Conference on Biomass for Energy was held on 22–24 September 2008 in Kiev. 190 specialists from 25 different countries took part in the event, including representatives of government bodies, research institutes, universities, industrial companies, energy agencies, consulting and commercial firms, non-governmental organizations and press. The Conference included a wide range of biomass to energy topics: biomass resources, research and development of bioenergy technologies, demonstration and market projects of biomass to energy use,

legislation issues, strategies for bioenergy development and financing, economic and environmental aspects of bioenergy technologies. Tetyana Zhelyezna from SEC Biomass (Ukraine) gave a presentation of BEE, its scope and background, and first results. Besides presentations, the scientific program of the conference included plenary sessions and panel discussions. Furthermore, a Dutch-Ukrainian seminar on the G2G project "Biomass and Biofuels in Ukraine" was held in the framework of the conference. More information can be found from:

[www.biomass.kiev.ua/conf2008/index.php?lang=en](http://www.biomass.kiev.ua/conf2008/index.php?lang=en)

### **BIOENERGY CONTRACTORS MEETING, 15.-16. Oct. 2008, Brussels**

Within SESSION 4 "Promotion and horizontal issues for biofuels" BEE contributed the presentation "Project presentation & presentation of first results" (held by Matthias Dees, University of Freiburg). The presentation and more information on the event is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/events/2008\\_10\\_15\\_bioenergy\\_contractors\\_conference\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/events/2008_10_15_bioenergy_contractors_conference_en.htm)

## The "twin-project" CEUBIOM

As is BEE, the project CEUBIOM is funded and working on the same FP7 topic "ENERGY-2007-3.7-01 Harmonisation of biomass resource assessment"

CEUBIOM is focussing on the harmonisation of biomass resource assessments based on the combination of Earth Observation (EO) and field data.

The ambition of CEUBIOM project is to develop a platform and a self-sustained e-service that will directly assist and train professionals from the EO, agricultural and EO/biomass sectors about the new, common and harmonised applications of EO and a better understanding of each other's requirements.

The CEUBIOM consortium consists of 16 partners originating from 15 EU Member States and covering academic departments, research institutes and small and medium-sized enterprises. The domains of the research groups within the consortium are within the EO, forestry and agriculture sciences. More information can be found from [www.ceubiom.org](http://www.ceubiom.org).

Complementary actions between BEE and CEUBIOM will take place throughout the duration of the projects. Close linkages will be ensured by joined project meetings and workshops, joined dissemination activities and other ways of cooperation.

## Upcoming events

### BEE events

The next BEE progress meeting will be held in Budapest from 30 March - 1 April 2009. A common public session with partners of the twin-project CEUBIOM is planned for March 31. The project AQUATERRE (<http://www.aquaterre.info>), a further FP7 project BEE cooperates with, will also be present at that event and introduce their project work.



### Other upcoming events

- European Sustainable Energy Week 2009, 9-13 February 2009, Brussels. More: [www.eusew.eu](http://www.eusew.eu)
- World Sustainable Energy Days 2009, 25-27 February 2009, Wels, Austria. More: [www.wsed.at](http://www.wsed.at)
- Bioenergy 2009, 31 August - 4 September 2009, Jyväskylä, Finland. Deadline for abstracts 15 February 2009. More: [www.bioenergy2009.finbioenergy.fi/](http://www.bioenergy2009.finbioenergy.fi/)
- European Renewable Energy Policy Conference 2009 in Brussels was postponed until November 2009. More: [www.erec.org/2009-conference.html](http://www.erec.org/2009-conference.html)

## Last but not least...

The BEE team wishes you a Merry Christmas and a very happy and successful New Year! Don't forget the bioenergy potential of your Christmas tree! ☺

## More information on BEE

**BEE website:** [www.eu-bee.com](http://www.eu-bee.com)

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