

Poland

**4BIOMASS Conference
November 4, 2010, Poswietne, Poland**



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The Polish 4Biomass Conference entitled "The Use of Solid Biomass for Energy Purposes" was held on November 4, 2010 at the Regional Advisory Centre For Agriculture and Rural Development (MODR), branch in Poswietne of the Mazovian Region of MODR (which includes Warsaw).

The conference attracted 107 participants - representatives of national and local authorities, farmers - producers of biomass, scientists - representatives of universities, owners of domestic and international energy companies. Notably, two high-ranking national politicians, and high-ranking official at the national agricultural advisory Centres were present:

- Department Director in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Mr. Kazimierz Zmuda, who is the main figure responsible for the energy use of biomass in the Ministry (in fact in Poland),
- Mr Michal Buszko, Senator (Member of the Polish Senate), from the Polish People's Party (Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe), the main political force representing the interests of Polish farmers,
- Mrs Grazyna Opolska, Director of the MODR Centre in Warsaw



Photo:
Participants of the conference

The conference was opened by Dr Hanna Burczy, from the 4Biomass staff, who presented the Project, its main goals and results obtained so far. She also extended the invitation to the planned tour and the conference in Warsaw.

Presentations were given by:

- Mr Kazimierz Zmuda, Department Director in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Photo 2a);
- Dr Piotr Gradziuk, Agriculture University in Lublin (Photo 2b);
- MSc Ing. Karol Teliga, President of the Polish Biomass Association POLBIOM (Photo 2c);
- Dr. Eng. H. Burczy, Institute of Energy (Photo 3a);
- Prof. Adam Gula, AGH-UST (Photo 3b) and
- Mr Marcin Pisarek, Vattenfall Heat Poland

- Mr Ryszard Gajewski, Polish Biomass Chamber (additional presentation)

The conference included two panel discussions. First one, moderated by MSc Ing. Karol Teliga was dedicated to practical experiences arising from the operation on the biomass market. The panelists were: Dr Wieslaw Denisiuk – owner of the EKOLOG district heat, Krzysztof Kowalczyk – director of the district heat company in Luban. The second panel was moderated by Mr Ryszard Gajewski - president of the Polish Biomass Chamber, who also made a presentation.

The topic of the conference corresponded very well to the interests of the participants. They were mainly attracted by the possibility to hear what Mr Zmuda was to say about the recent developments of the biomass policies and by the possibility of asking him questions. Indeed, Mr Zmuda presented information, which is not yet publicly available.



Image:

Speakers:

Left to right: Mr Kazimierz Zmuda, Department Director in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Dr Piotr Gradziuk, Agriculture University in Lublin; MSc Ing. Karol Teliga, President of the Polish Biomass Association POLBIOM

Mr Zmuda presented very interesting information concerning promotion of small/medium-size biogas plants with the capacity up to 50 kW, which in the opinion of their advisers, based on the German experience are economical and bring sustainable solution of using of biomass. However, Polish investors interested in building biogas

plants challenged this statement, saying that in Polish conditions only much larger (above 1 MW) units are economical. Other discussants raised the question about the availability of sufficient amount of input biomass material within a reasonable distance for such capacities. From the discussion, one could conclude that the Government is aware of this problem, however the financial support for the smaller size units are very seriously considered on the grounds of the social and environmental merits. Similar discussion concerned the use of biomass for power generation, which is of a growing criticism in Poland. Most of the participants agreed that the present financial support given by the Government to power generation generators for co-firing biomass with coal is waste of this resource and public money.

Against this background the presentation of the representative of Vattenfall, who presented ambitious plans of this company to extend the use of biomass in the power station Siekierki near Warsaw looked rather controversial. What was striking to the participants was a long list of technological problems arising from the co-firing and the related losses. As one of the participants put it: "Apparently, Vattenfall wants to justify the lavish subsidies they received from the Polish electricity consumers." Another question was, whether is it true, that despite of those problems, the payback time for their biomass investments is only two years. The representative of Vattenfall do not give an answer, apparently, because it is business confidential. Most of the participants also agreed that the best use of biomass is for local heating in rural areas.

Dr Gradziuk from the Agriculture University in Lublin presented interesting data on the present use of biomass and its potential for energy production. There was a very hot and overwhelming criticism addressed to the Government concerning the plans to privatized the State Forests. It is perceived, that this move is, on one hand, a measure to patch-up the State budget deficit and, on the other hand, is driven by the big money players who trade wooden biomass for co-firing in power plants. In fact, this issue is increasingly important in the present Polish politics.

MSc Ing. Karol Teliga also gave convincing arguments that in Poland biomass should be used, first of all, for heating and not for electricity production. He proposed (addressing the proposal to Mr Zmuda) that the Government should immediately start working on issuing Green Certificates also for heat derived from biomass as it is a case for "green electricity". Specifically, he claimed that one Green Certificate for 1 MWh of "green heat" should be equivalent to 3 MWh of "green electricity" derived from biomass. The statement of Mr Teliga was strongly supported by most of the participants, in particular, by Dr Denisiuk (owner of district heat company) and Mr Kowalczyk (technical director of district heat company in Luban). Also Dr Gradziuk and Prof Gula underlined the importance of this issue and raised concern that the present Government policies are too much (practically only) focused on "green electricity", while the possibility of producing green heat is ignored. In wake of a hot discussion, Mr Zmuda announced that he would quickly organize an expert meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture with presence of the Minister Mr Sawicki and invited Mr Teliga and Prof Gula to take part in it (in fact, the meeting already took place in Warsaw on November 17th).

Mr Pisarek presented the plans of Vattenfall to extend the co-firing biomass with coal and gave a concrete example of exploitation problems at the cogeneration plant in Siekierki near Warsaw. As mentioned above, his presentation was perceived as rather controversial. A particular issue, which surprised the participants was that the biggest supplier of biomass to this power plant is located about 200 km from the plant.

Mr Gajewski - president Polish Biomass Chamber, offered an additional presentation, he brought with him, as it was very relevant to the previous discussion. He has focused on the biomass potential and use in Poland.

Prof. Gula presented the calculations showing that, as far as the CO2 emission reduction per one Euro invested is concerned, local space heating in rural areas brings about effects at least one order of magnitude bigger than investing the same money in co-firing of biomass in power plants.



Image:
Representatives of the Polish 4Biomass Project Partners at the Conference:
Dr Hanna Burczy, IEN,



... and Prof. Adam Gula, AGH

Closing the conference, prof. Gula summarized the outcomes. He emphasized importance of projects such as 4Biomass, which, on one hand, enable the decision makers to collect feedback from the stakeholders and, on the other hand, make it possible for them to influence the decision making process. In particular, he expressed his satisfaction that the discussion was so lively and that the opinion about the local use of biomass, primarily for heating, was so unanimous. He also expressed his hope that Mr Zmuda and Senator Buszko will bring the message of this conference to the higher levels of policy making in Poland.