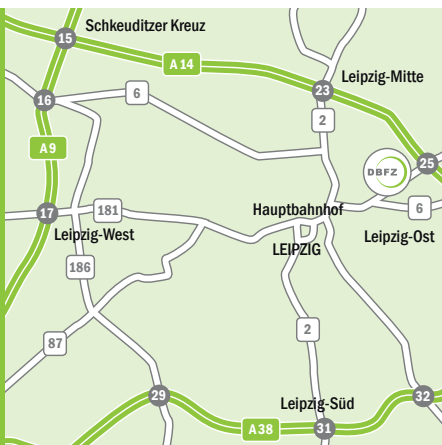


ANNUAL REPORT 2015



DIRECTIONS

By train: to Leipzig main station. Take tram line 3/3 E (towards Taucha/Sommerfeld) as far as the Bautzner Strasse stop. Cross over the road, passing the car park on the right, and go straight on through gate number 116, after approximately 100 metres turn left, the DBFZ entrance is 60 metres further along on the left-hand side.

By car: on the A 14 motorway. Exit at Leipzig Nord-Ost; follow signs for Taucha; then follow signs for Leipzig; then follow signs for Zentrum, Innenstadt. Turn off left after the "bft" filling station (see "By train").

By tram: line 3/3 E towards Taucha/Sommerfeld; Bautzner Strasse stop (see "By train").

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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1

PREFACE



Dear Reader,

Following the re-alignment and re-focusing of research activities and the introduction of knowledge-based services in 2014, the five new research focus areas have been driven forward energetically over the past year in order to lay the groundwork for the 'smart bioenergy' of the future. International activities (particularly within the EU, and in South America, China and India) have also been steadily advanced, enhancing the international reputation of the DBFZ.

Despite the more difficult underlying conditions for bioenergy research, 2015 was the DBFZ's best year to date in terms of third-party funding, with numerous new R&D projects being initiated. Preparations for the major new building also progressed well, enabling plans to be made for laying of the foundation stone in Summer 2016. The DBFZ is very well set to meet the challenges of the next 5 to 10 years as a key national institution researching the uses of biomass both as an energy source and as integrated raw material.

We would, as ever, like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely all those who have supported and assisted us in the past year, with wide-ranging suggestions for our work, and through project commissions: our shareholders, the Supervisory Board, the Research Advisory Council, government ministries, project funding agencies, and all our project partners. We are determined to continue on the road to success in cooperation with you in 2016. Your support is vital to us.

We hope you will find our 2015 Annual Report interesting and entertaining. We cordially invite you also to attend our next DBFZ Annual Conference on September 8th and 9th, 2016. For details visit: www.dbfz.de/jahrestagung.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Nelles'.

Prof. Dr. Michael Nelles
(Scientific Managing Director)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Mayer'.

Daniel Mayer
(Administrative Managing Director)

2

INTERVIEW WITH PROF. DR. DANIELA THRÄN



“The possibilities for the energy transition and for climate protection are now better than ever ...”



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Prof. Dr. Daniela Thrän

Prof. Dr. Thrän: In the Summer of 2015, you and a number of other scientists at the DBFZ published a book titled “Smart Bioenergy – Technologies and concepts for a more flexible bioenergy provision in future energy systems”. How should we understand the word ‘smart’ in relation to bioenergy?

Daniela Thrän: What we were attempting to do with the book was set out the current status quo of bioenergy use, and to indicate the direction in which development needs to advance from a scientific perspective. Bioenergy is currently undergoing a transition from single to combined use within largely renewable energy supply systems. The term ‘smart’ means that bioenergy is capable of being integrated intelligently into an existing renewables system. Factors such as storability and all-weather availability are key attributes of bioenergy which will play a more prominent role within the energy system in future.

That means bioenergy is the balancing factor within the renewable energy mix?

Daniela Thrän: Exactly. Bioenergy can help cover the residual demand for electricity, heat and mobility that remains after the impact of energy-saving measures and use of fluctuating renewable energy sources. Renewables-based energy systems of the future will need to optimise how the various sources are combined. Flexibility and on-demand energy production are key in that context, and they are aspects on which we at the DBFZ are working intensively. Flexibility means: bioenergy plants are able to respond to fluctuations in the system as can occur – depending on the technology – within seconds or within days. The challenge is also to adapt that flexibility to the different needs within the energy supply system. On-demand production is thus always adapted to requirements in the specific application case – whether that be a smart biomass heater in the basement of a family home or the highly flexible biogas plant in a virtual power plant.

Your book also provides an overview of the changed policy framework conditions which have had a major impact on the development of bioenergy in recent years. How do you assess the current political situation, on a national level, with regard to bioenergy?

Daniela Thrän: The role of bioenergy is currently in a state of flux in all sectors (power, heat and fuel). A number of different factors are involved in this: the rapid growth in bioenergy use in the second half of the 2000s; the increasing competition for land area; and the successful launch onto the market of other renewable energy sources. So the possibilities for the energy transition and for climate protection are now better than ever. Based on the way the debate is currently being framed, however, I am very concerned that the boom might now be followed by an exaggerated backward step. So greater political stability is vital to ensure that the knowledge and technical advances in biomass use for energy are preserved for the future. The amendment to the Germany's Renewable Energy Sources Act scheduled for 2016, the Federal Government's biofuels strategy post-2020 and the shaping of the transition in heating energy provision (the so-called 'Wärmewende'), are key pillars in implementing flexible bioenergy provision in the various sectors.

The 21st Climate Change Conference in Paris in December of last year adopted a global climate control agreement. What is your assessment of the Paris resolution?

Daniela Thrän: Around 43% of the reduction in CO₂ by renewables stems from bioenergy; that has to be advanced further in a practical way. Improving efficiency, cutting costs, as well as more closely examining the environmental impact and macro-economic aspects of climate protection, are the key challenges. Like renewable resources in general, bioenergy provision has a very much more visible impact on the landscape than fossil fuel extraction. The resultant conflicts were given insufficient consideration in the past. In this context, the DBFZ together with the Leipzig-based Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and other institutions is researching into suitable monitoring and assessment methods.

The versatility of biomass has led to it being seen as a 'multi-talented' renewable energy source. Fuel, heat, power: which area of bioenergy use do you think is most promising?

Daniela Thrän: The question is not so much 'where', but 'how' bioenergy is used. In terms of improving flexibility, it is the power sector – especially biogas – which is the most advanced. In the motor fuel sector, it is clear to see that over the longer term applications will shift away from cars to other mobility options such as heavy load transportation or air travel. With regard to the heat sector, there is still quite a bit of work for us to do. Together with the renewable energy research alliance FVEE, which we joined in early 2015, we last year set forth some initial considerations on the transition in heating energy provision (the 'Wärmewende') which were incorporated into a joint position paper.

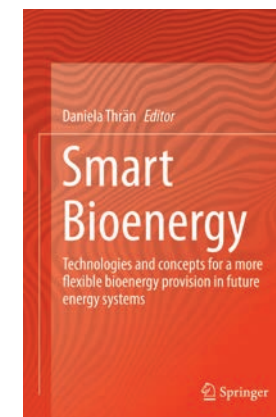


Fig. 1 Smart Bioenergy – Technologies and concepts for a more flexible bioenergy provision in future energy systems

What scientific methods is the DBFZ pursuing in this regard?

Daniela Thrän: The DBFZ is investigating issues relating to smart bioenergy provision in five different research focus areas. With regard to the 'Wärmewende', the first to mention is the DBFZ's 'SmartBiomassHeat' research focus area, which is working intensively on the transformation of heat provision from biomass. We are at present faced with a wide variety of obstacles in this area, including separate power and heat production, and only very isolated combined heat and power plant installations. There is a need for technical development based on the fact that – on the one hand – residues and waste are increasingly being used as raw materials, and – on the other hand – bioenergy has to be delivered in smaller units and with a high level of control capability. In practical terms, that means that high-quality fuels such as biomethane or ENplus-certified pellets are assigned greater importance and should be advanced accordingly. The aims in this must be to develop more efficient, lower-emission conversion plants for combined heat and power provision, and also to use more biogenic residual materials and low-quality by-products for heat supply.

Are biogenic residues and waste the energy source materials of the future?

Daniela Thrän: The exploitation of previously unused biogenic waste and residues as energy sources and integrated raw materials is a key area of focus of the DBFZ's work, as it is for the Department of Waste Management and Material Flow of the University of Rostock headed by my colleague Prof. Dr. Nelles. As a research institution, we are seeing a clear trend away from traditional agricultural primary raw materials such as rape and maize to residues and waste materials. That approach is also in line with Federal Government targets. Our analysis in Autumn 2015, presented in conjunction with the Regrowable Resources Agency FNR, indicates that around a third of the technical residual material potential in Germany is currently unused. This mainly relates to logging residues, straw, and liquid and solid manure. Moreover, municipal waste is in some places barely used as a source of energy. One interesting method for improving usage is hydrothermal carbonisation (HTC). It converts greencut, biowaste or biogenic residual waste content into environmentally friendly biocoal by means of water and pressure. The

by-products of this process, such as the process water, can also be used as raw materials for the chemical industry. That is a very good example of cascaded use of residual materials.

You are a member of the Federal Government's Bioeconomy Council. What ideas from the research field are you able to contribute to bioeconomy policy?

Daniela Thrän: The aim of the Bioeconomy Council is to establish a multi-sector knowledge-based bioeconomy in Germany which minimises the use of fossil fuels and brings to market new, sustainably created products and services. In Summer 2015 the Bioeconomy Council published a Bioenergy Paper setting forth the key data for successful implementation of a bioeconomy in Germany. The intent is that the Bioenergy Strategy should contribute to shaping the bioeconomy in an economically beneficial and sustainable way, oriented to the three strategic objectives of climate protection and sustainability; avoidance of conflict with security of food supply; and system stability and technology leadership.

How are those visions being implemented in practice?

Daniela Thrän: The aim of our R&D work in this area is to investigate new and innovative methods and put them into practice. The DBFZ is a member of the Central Germany Bioeconomy Cluster, as part of which we are working on a joint project investigating how nitrogen-free fibres from biogas production can be used in the woodworking industry. The aim is to open up new value creation options for biogas plants. Another project is concerned with the decomposition of biomass containing lignocellulose in anaerobic processes. This is focused on recovering input products for the chemical industry combined with biogas production. An example of a new product which the DBFZ is helping to develop is an additive for pelletising which is derived from residues with high lignin content. As part of the BioEconomy Cluster, in cooperation with the UFZ and the Leipzig Trade Academy HHL, we are also investigating how the ecological, economic and social effects on future Bioeconomy Regions can be managed (for more see article beginning on page 37). The results of all these research activities are important also with a view to advancing the concept of the bioeconomy within the framework of policy discussions.

The “Biomass Energy Use” programme has been running very successfully under the leadership of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) since 2008. Can you outline the aims of the programme?

Daniela Thrän: The programme was launched under the auspices of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMU) as a contribution to climate protection. At the time, bioenergy was firmly under discussion as part of the measures to achieve climate protection goals. The projects were heavily influenced by that view. The programme is now in its seventh year, and the focus is more on research and development projects for the practical development of competitive technologies, particularly in relation to incineration, carburetion and digestion of biomass. By systematically collecting and documenting assessment and test methods for bioenergy applications in various methodological guides, we have also established a key basis for improved research and development.

As of today (February 2016), the programme has invested some 48 million euro in projects which are either still ongoing or have been completed. A total of 104 alliances have been launched, with over 260 directly involved scientific and industrial project partners. It is a relatively small programme, but with a very broad spread of participants, in keeping with the range of different bioenergy technologies. In November 2015 we hosted the 6th Status Conference, at which all the projects were actively interlinked and findings were exchanged. The event also, we hope, provided lots of new suggestions and project ideas for the participants’ own work.

New ideas drive innovation in science and industry. How can the DBFZ put them into practice?

Daniela Thrän: Scientific innovation is a core aspect of our work at the DBFZ. As a research institution with predominantly applied research, we do of course have many possibilities at our disposal to develop and ultimately also technically implement those ideas. However, we are reliant on industrial partners to do so. We have established a highly innovation-oriented environment based on our growing network, our wide-ranging contacts with small and medium-sized enterprises, new business spin-offs from our work, as well as the Bioenergy Innovation Centre. We



Fig. 2 Podium discussion at the 6th Status Conference of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy’s “Biomass Energy Use” programme

are also working to drive forward innovation in specific key technologies, such as hydrothermal carbonisation. Intensive discussions at workshops and conferences often give rise to new scientific approaches which we subsequently are able to put into practice in conjunction with partners.

A personal question to finish with: You work as a scientist for the DBFZ, the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research and the University of Leipzig, and live in Berlin. What do you find specially attractive about Leipzig as a base for scientific work?

Daniela Thrän: Leipzig, and especially the Leipzig Science Park, offers me as a scientist lots of possibilities. The reason why the DBFZ located here back in February 2008 was that our predecessor institution, the Institute for Energy and Environment (IE), was already long-established on the site, so a more or less seamless transition was made. The existing infrastructure and projects, as well as some of the staff, were retained, so research at the Leipzig based could be continued almost without interruption. Today, the DBFZ not only has quite good technical facilities but – together with the nearby Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), the University of Leipzig and various other scientific institutions – has built up an extensive scientific network which enables us to undertake research relat-

ing to the energy transition with an interdisciplinary scope. Leipzig has generally established an outstanding reputation within the scientific community in the wide field of energy and environmental research over the past 10 years. So I am naturally very happy to be working and contributing to what is being done here.

Thank you for the interview.

In profile:

Prof. Dr. Daniela Thrän is Deputy Scientific Managing Director of the DBFZ and head of the “Systemic contribution of biomass” research focus area. She also heads the Department of Bioenergy (BEN) at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, and is Professor of Bioenergy Systems at the University of Leipzig. Her book “Smart Bioenergy – Technologies and concepts for a more flexible bioenergy provision in future energy systems” was published in Summer 2015 by Springer Verlag (doi 10.1007/978-3-319-16193-8).

Further information: www.smart-bioenergy.de



3 BIOENERGY RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS AT THE DBFZ

There remain many challenges and questions regarding the integration of biomass into the existing energy system. How can energy efficiency be improved? How can competing usage conflicts be circumvented? Or emissions into soil, water and the air be avoided, and what can and must the 'smart' bioenergy of the future be like? These and other questions are expertly and independently investigated and answered by German Biomass Research Centre (DBFZ). The mission of the DBFZ is to develop technical solutions and devise wide-ranging concepts for the economically, ecologically and socially sustainable use of biomass as an energy source based on applied leading-edge research. The DBFZ's scientific staff also investigate and predict potential areas of conflict between the various goals associated with the development of bioenergy, setting forth detailed plans as to how such conflicts can be avoided and eliminated. The DBFZ seeks to expand knowledge in relation to the scope and limitations of regrowable resources as an energy source and integrated raw material within a bio-based economy ('bioeconomy'). It also aims to safeguard the leading position enjoyed by Germany in the sector for the long term.

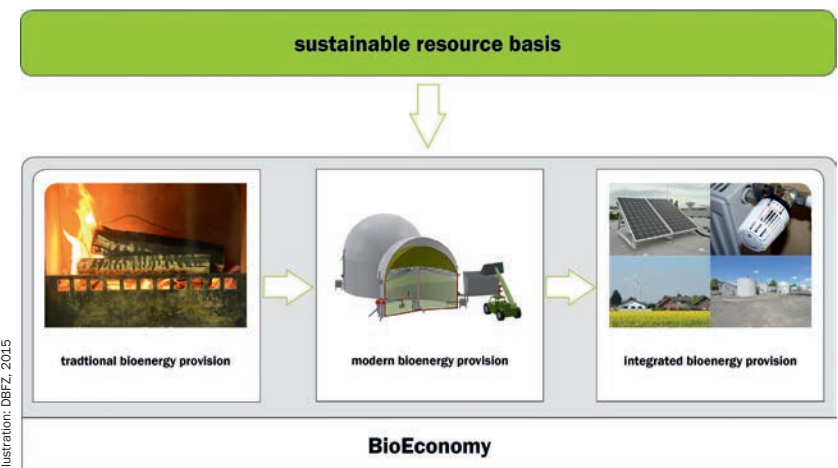


Fig. 3 Development stages for integrated smart bioenergy supply



FOCUS FOR APPLIED LEADING-EDGE RESEARCH

In 2014 the DBFZ established five areas of focus for its scientific research. They are oriented to the future trends and research policy challenges and the background conditions relating to the use of biomass as a source of raw materials and energy (including the strategies of the German Federal Government, such as the BioEconomy 2030 national research strategy, the National Bioeconomy Policy Strategy, the Federal Government's Mobility and Motor Fuel Strategy, the Biorefineries Roadmap, etc.). Other cornerstones include the conditions dictating grant aid and subsidy policy, unique selling points within the research landscape, and in particular the sound infrastructure of the DBFZ. In order to exploit useful synergies within the DBFZ, the five research focus areas are split organisationally across its four research departments: Bioenergy Systems, Biochemical Conversion, Thermo-Chemical Conversion, and Biorefineries

3.1 RESEARCH FOCUS I: SYSTEMIC CONTRIBUTION OF BIOMASS

"Smart Bioenergy use in small, very precisely controlled plants will be a building block of integrated supply systems and be able to contribute to the sustainable energy supply of tomorrow."

(Prof. Dr. Daniela Thrän, Head of the research focus area "Systemic contribution of biomass")

This area of research focus will contribute to the creation of sustainable bioenergy strategies at national and international level. To that end, it will identify regional and global biomass potential and investigate and assess the wide-ranging options offered by different biomass recovery concepts. The primary aim is to answer methodological and technical system-related questions on the efficiency and sustainability of biomass use from economic, ecological and technical viewpoints, incorporating both the land resources used as well as treatment and conversion technologies specific to the energy source. The combination of these topic areas provides the basis for deriving strategies and recommendations for action for decision-makers in the political and business spheres.

BIOMASS POTENTIAL OF RESIDUES AND WASTE MATERIALS - STATUS QUO IN GERMANY (BIOPOT)

Germany depends on imports for 71% of its energy. The use of biogenic residues and waste materials as an energy source is already an essential element of the renewable energy system. The extent to which the levels of use can be increased depends fundamentally on the available biomasses and the defined aims. Any

assessment of opportunities and risks does, however, demand an appropriate data base.

There are currently no standardised quality requirements or minimum standards for calculating biomass potential, and the published results are in some cases highly controversial. The BIOPOT project appraises the current status quo of knowledge relating to potential for using biomass in the form of residues and waste materials in Germany across all relevant institutions. The partners in the project were:

- Prof. Dr. Udo Mantau (Information systems for raw material resources)
- Prof. Dr. Bernd Mahro City (University of Applied Science)
- Thuringian Institute of Agriculture (TLL)
- Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum (DBFZ)

Existing published studies and findings from ongoing projects being run by the partners were presented in a concise review. The core scientific outcome of the project is a schematic produced jointly by the project team setting out current biomass potential for residues and waste materials. A total of 93 single biomasses were analyzed, broken down into the following five residue categories:

- Wood and forestry residue products
- Agricultural by-products
- Municipal waste
- Industrial residue products
- Residues and waste materials from other land areas.

The establishment of clear parameters for defining biomass potential across all institutions helped to make the results already obtained by the partners more comparable. This included joint definition of unambiguous (sub-)categories of single biomasses as well as consistent application of definitions of potential and the relevant physical units. The data collected includes (where available) details of theoretical and technical biomass potential, as well as current use of the material concerned as raw materials and as an energy source. The comparison unit chosen across all

categories was tonnes of dry matter (t DM). All the collated results relate to the present, and incorporate no future projections. No recalculations were carried out in the course of data collation. Against the background of sustainable use of biomass as a raw material resource and an energy source, this work serves – among other purposes – as a key decision-making basis for the definition of future research topics and policy strategies within the context of the targeted establishment of a bio-economy.

PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: The theoretical biomass residue potential predominantly comprises by-products and residues from agriculture, woodworking and forestry, which account for almost three quarters of the total.

Of 93 single biomasses evaluated, consistent relevant data was collated for 77. The current known theoretical biomass residue potential for those biomasses in Germany is found to be 151.1 million t DM (Figure 5). 43% of the total consists of woodworking and forestry residues; 30% agricultural by-products; 12% municipal waste; 9% industrial residues; and 6% residues from other land areas.

Result 2: Two thirds of the current technical biomass residue potential is being used as raw materials or as an energy source. One third is currently not being used, or no evidence of use is available.



Fig. 4 FNR series “Regrowable resources”, volume 36

As a result of restrictions, 43.1 million t DM (= 29%) of the theoretical potential cannot be used. The data is unclear with regard to a further 9.7 million t DM. The total verifiable technical biomass residue potential is 98.4 million t DM. Of that total, 67.4 million t DM (= 69%) is being used as a raw material or as an energy source. Some 30.9 million t DM (= 31%) is not being used, or no use is known (Figure 5).

Result 3: Current unused biomass potential is concentrated on a small number of biomasses in comparatively high quantities.

Some 95% of the unused potential relates to the three biomasses logging residues (approximately 38%), animal excrement (approximately 29%) and cereal straw (approximately 27%). A further 4% relate to wood from landscape conservation. Owing to the mandatory disposal and recycling requirements in Germany, there is little to no unused potential in relation to municipal waste and industrial residues.

Result 4: The data on the theoretical potential of approximately seven out of every 10 tonnes can be classed as good to very good. With regard to the remaining three out of 10 tonnes there is some uncertainty.

The data relating to woodworking and forestry residues and agricultural by-products in particular can be classed as good to very good. These biomasses account for some 73% of the theoretical potential. In the municipal waste category, a distinction can be made between two methods. The volumes and use of some biomasses (such as biowaste from the ‘brown bin’, green waste, etc.) are statistically recorded. The statistical recording of other biogenic waste (such as residues from commercial catering, used cooking oil, etc.) is incomplete, or no records are available at all. Any extrapolation or estimation in this context results in uncertainty. In relation to industrial residues, too, volumes can normally only be determined indirectly by evaluating the relevant processes. The data relating to residual materials from “other land areas” must be classed as particularly uncertain. These are biomasses which are in some cases disposed of/recycled by local authorities but not recovered fully for cost reasons (such as biomass from municipal green

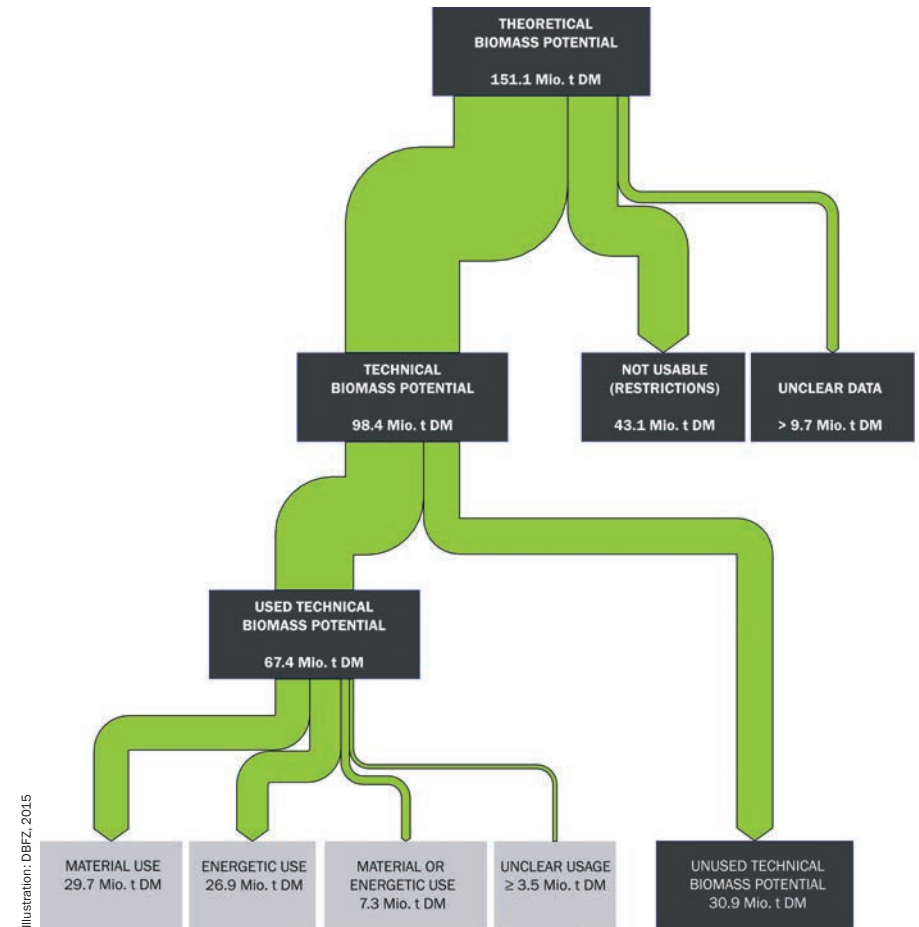


Illustration: DBFZ, 2015

Fig. 5 Biomass potential of residues and waste materials and their current use – Status quo in Germany in the form of a Sankey diagram

areas). In relation to material from landscape conservation, too, it cannot be determined with certainty which source areas are included in the calculation at what yield levels. As the sensitivity of the underlying calculation parameters (e.g. yield, water content, recovery rate, etc.) is very high, this area is subject to high levels of uncertainty.

Result 5: 67.4 million t DM is currently being used as a raw material or as an energy source. The extent to which existing material flows can be diverted to higher-grade or more efficient use is unclear.

It might be possible to divert the residues already firmly established in use as raw materials or as an energy source to higher-grade or more efficient use (such as cascade use). To date, however, no adequate studies have been made as to the effects and market shifts which might result from the provision of financial incentives for example.

Result 6: Sustainable use of biomass resources requires continuous recording of biogenic residues and assessment of their use as raw materials and as an energy source.

The project results map most of the currently available data. The timing of the individual result is not consistent. In order to assess trends in single biomasses over time, appropriate monitoring is required. This requires agreement on the methodology and relevant calculation parameters, as well as a communications and data structure spanning all the institutions concerned.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Biomass use is comparatively well covered by continuous market monitoring and primary data acquisition. However, there are only isolated instances of cross-checking against national biomass potential, including imports and exports (e.g. raw material monitoring of wood), and the picture provided is very patchy, especially in relation to biogenic residues. An overview across all subject areas can currently only be produced for single cases, and at considerable effort and expense. There is at present no overarching responsibility for these matters. To produce regular information on biomass potential and current use, a continuous reporting system must be established. This must present the types, availability, recording and use of the various relevant residual material fractions, so as to provide information over the years on the extent to which residual material flows are being integrated into the system of cascaded use as raw materials and energy sources targeted by policy-makers.

Project summary

Duration:	10/2014–03/2015
Status:	finished
Project partner:	Prof. Dr. Udo Mantau, Prof. Dr. Bernd Mahro, Thuringian Institute of Agriculture (TLL)
Contact:	André Brosowski, Prof. Dr. Daniela Thrän
Project number:	22020114
Funding body:	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

With support from



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German Bundestag

In order to establish such a reporting system, the requirements and key parameters must be discussed, bindingly specified and continuously monitored and fulfilled across all the institutions concerned. There are at present no suitable organisational and data structures or clearly defined responsibilities between data-holding and data-delivering institutions. A new working group should systematically close the data gaps and implement routine reporting. In the long term, monitoring of biogenic resources will enable assessment based on appropriate quality data and over time, so aiding the decision-making process for the further framing of bioenergy policy.

A further focus in future should be on the quality of the methodology for calculating biomass potential. The basic parameters underlying the often highly complex calculations must be presented more clearly, in order to track and compare results more effectively. Biomass-specific harmonisation of calculation methods and the introduction of minimum standards would be appropriate ways to safeguard data quality over the long term.

In view of the different target groups (policy-makers, market players, the public at large, etc.) and their differing information needs, the question as to the form in which findings can be made available must be also be resolved. In this context, database structures must be created and existing structures interlinked. In compliance with legal requirements (such as regarding data protection), research results should be edited in a media-friendly way and published in line with the target groups' needs. Suitable (online) methods should be considered for this.

PROSPECTS FOR 2016

The project consortium recommends the following five concrete measures as the next steps:

1. Establishment of a continuous monitoring system to provide long-term information on biomass potential and use. Requirements:
 - Definition of responsibilities and an appropriate organisational structure
 - Networking and interchange between data-recording and data-holding institutions
 - Establishment of powerful (foundation) database structures for collating and updating data on biogenic resources
 - Routine reporting
2. Development of sustainable, economically viable process chains and technologies to exploit unused biomass potential.
3. Analysis of key unknown biomass potential, e. g.:
 - Landscape conservation materials: Geodata-based analysis of biomass potential and polling of relevant groups on management practices and use
 - Intermediate crop potential (increasing straw potential based on humus delivery)
 - Analysis of the input-output differential on the wood waste market
4. Identification of synergies between institutions researching biomass potential, harmonisation of methods and introduction of minimum standards for calculating biomass potential.
5. Creation of a register of biogenic residue materials (where appropriate with statutory backing)

Key reference projects and publications

- Project: SECTOR – Production of Solid Sustainable Energy Carriers from Biomass by Means of Torrefaction, EU-Project, 31.12.2011–30.06.2015 (FKZ: GA 282826)
- Project: Caricom – Unterstützung institutioneller Strukturen für die Förderung erneuerbarer Energien und Energieeffizienz in der Karibik, GIZ GmbH, 01.11.2014–30.04.2015
- Project: stadtPARTHEland, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung/Projektträger Jülich, 01.09.2014–31.08.2019 (FKZ: 033L119E)
- Project: Entwicklung der BM-Verstromung bei Fortschreibung der aktuellen EEG-Vergütung, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.09.2015–30.11.2015 (FKZ: 22400815)
- Project: Nachhaltige Bioökonomie, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung – UFZ, 01.12.2011–30.11.2015
- Publication: Thrän, D. (Hrsg.) (2015): Smart Bioenergy. Technologies and concepts for a more flexible bioenergy provision in future energy systems. Springer-Verlag. Heidelberg – ISBN 978-3-319-16192-1.
- Publication: Bohnet, S.; Haak, F.; Gawor, M.; Thrän, D. (2015): Technisch-ökonomische Begleitfor-
- schung des Bundeswettbewerb „Bioenergie-Regionen“: Endbericht Fördermaßnahme 2009–2012. DBFZ Report Nr. 23. DBFZ. Leipzig – ISSN 2190-7943 (Print)/ISSN 2197-4632 (Online).
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- Publication: Zech, K.; Oehmichen, K.; Grasemann, E.; Michaelis, J.; Funke, S.; Seiffert, M. (2015): Technical, economic and environmental assessment of technologies for the production of biohydrogen and its distribution: Results of the Hy-NOW study. In: International Journal of Hydrogen Energy. Bd. 40 (Nr. 15). S. 5487–5495. doi: [10.1016/j.ijhydene.2015.01.177](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2015.01.177) – ISSN 0360-3199.
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3.2 RESEARCH FOCUS II: ANAROBIC PROCESSES

“Biofas plants must become more flexible in terms of their substrates and energy delivery. Only then will they be able to continue making a major contribution to the safeguarding of energy supplies in future.”

(Dr. Jan Liebetrau, Head of the research focus area “Anaerobic processes”)

Processes using micro-organisms to convert biomass under anaerobic conditions form the basis of many biotechnologies for the production and supply of material and energy sources. The “Anaerobic Processes” research focus area primarily develops efficient and flexible methods of biogas production to meet the needs of future energy systems. Linkage to material recycling processes enhances the added value. To that end, the research focus area develops tools for process monitoring and control, concepts for flexible, low-emission plants and operating regimes, methods of assessing and optimising efficiency, as well as to maximise material turnover, particularly for difficult substrates.

The flexible generation of electric power from biogas will be a key element of future energy supply to compensate for fluctuating energy sources. Factors driving this are the fact that the plant portfolio comprises more than 3500 MW of installed power (Scheftelowitz et al., 2015, S. 16), and biogas plants have been set up everywhere on a decentralised basis, so it will be much less costly to expand the network. In addition, the way biogas plants operate opens up wide-ranging options for delivering system services such as on-demand infeed, control energy or balancing energy (Grope et al., 2011). In order to fulfil these tasks, biogas production must be increasingly decoupled from conversion. In the case of electricity generation at biogas plants, this is possible based on the creation of appropriate



gas storage capacities and scaleable biogas production. Process-integrated gas management, optimising use of available storage capacity, can play a major role in delivering system services and avoiding emissions and flare gas loss. The aim of the project described in the following is to technically improve gas storage systems – in particular level measurement – and integrate them into biogas plant process control systems.

MANBIO – DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL MEASURES TO IMPROVE GAS MANAGEMENT OF BIOGAS PLANTS

Agricultural biogas plants in Germany are designed mostly for constant energy supply. A number of technical options are available to supply energy from biogas plants on demand, including expanding their storage and power generating capacities. With regard to flexible plant operation in particular, reliable indication of gas storage levels is a key function of gas management, as it dictates the switching points for conversion units and the gas flare. In practice, however, considerable discrepancies are observed between the indicated and actual levels. Recent surveys by the DBFZ show that 32% of plant operators polled have seen their fermenter pressure cut-outs activated at least once a month, though in most cases without the primary gas consumers failing. The causes are suspected to be in the feed regime and in the gas management itself.

Many biogas plants are fitted with pneumatically supported double-membrane gas reservoir hoods, as shown in figure 6. Pressure supported and pressure free storage roof systems with single or double membrane construction are generally used. Pressure-supported systems tend to be less well suited to flexible operation, as the necessary pressure gradient between the storages can only be assured when the storages are not completely full (Kube et al. 2013). In practice, the interaction of multiple biogas storages is often unsatisfactory. Theoretical storage capacities can thus not be fully utilised in plant operations. Consequently, biogas is wasted due to tripping of the low-pressure and high-pressure cut-outs of individual storages and unnecessary flare gas loss. At the same time, a safety risk is seen in practice when low-pressure cut-outs draw in outside air to compensate for pressure differences.



Fig. 6 DBFZ research biogas plant (continuous stirred tank reactor with pneumatically supported double membrane gas storage roof at front left)

AIMS

The aims of the ‘ManBio’ project are, firstly, to improve the accuracy of gas storage level measurement at biogas plants. This is intended to provide reliable and more accurate switching point determination for the conversion units. Other aims are the development of an integrated system to link the gas storages to the gas production and the conversion units; the development of tapping strategies when operating multiple gas storages; and increased utilisation of the capacities of existing systems based on integrated technological and operational measures. Finally, improved management is being targeted in order to minimise gas losses resulting from maintenance procedures, gas production spikes, or a generally more flexible biogas production process.

MEASURES

The project is divided into five work packages. Its basis is a technical analysis of commonly used systems and the factors influencing the operation of gas storage systems. Building on that, subsequent steps will be modification of a measurement system, modelling of influencing factors, and integration into the plant automation system. Technical implementation and trialling in continuous operation will be carried out at the DBFZ’s research biogas plant and at least one other

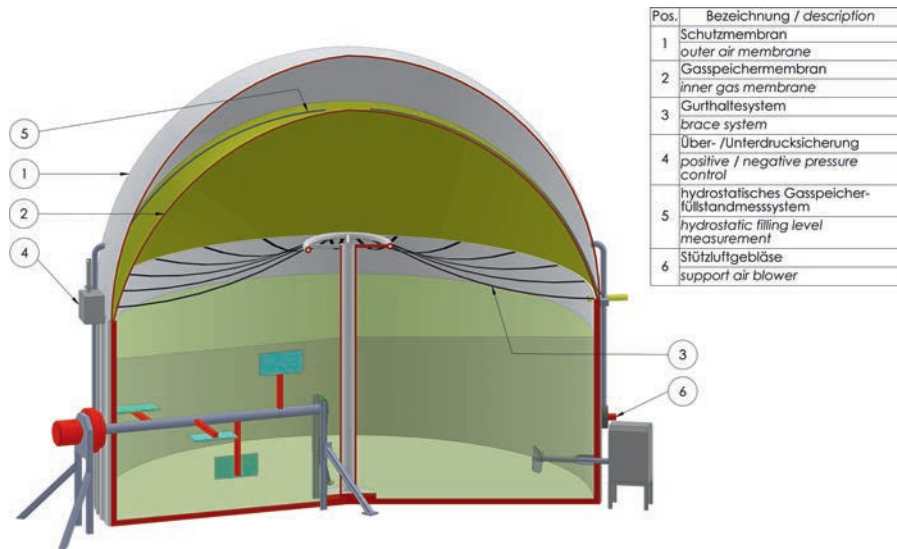


Fig. 7 Continuous stirred tank reactor with pneumatically supported double membrane gas storage roof

biogas plant, managed by the practice partner of Awite Bioenergie GmbH. Finally, recommended action for practical plant operation will be set out with reference to ecological and economic appraisals.

MEASURES CARRIED OUT AT THE RESEARCH BIOGAS PLANT

As part of the research project a number of technical modifications have been made to the DBFZ's research biogas plant. One such measure is the upgrading of a gas volume flow measurement system. This permits exact quantification of the inflowing and outflowing raw biogas. This basic measurement layout enables testing of various level measurement systems on the gas storage. Another measure is

the addition of a hydrostatic filling level measurement system (water level gauge technique) mounted on the inner gas storage membrane. Figure 7 shows the two installed diametrically arranged water level gauge (Hydrostatic filling level measurement, no. 5). The modification of a conventional rope pull technique concludes the major construction works on the research biogas plant. Simpler rope pull technique and the water level gauge technique have been employed in practice for years. In the project, the measurement systems are being investigated in terms of their indication and change behaviour in response to various operating states and weather conditions. Comparable modifications are being carried out on a practice plant operated by project partner Awite. This is testing the mode of operation of the modified measurement system. In order to map the full spectrum of gas storage techniques, an additional storage concept was considered alongside the technical outfitting when selecting the practice plant. As a result, two different storage systems are being used: a pneumatically assisted double-membrane gas storage hood on the research biogas plant and a horizontal pressure free gas storage bag at the practice plant. The modified cable pull will deliver measurement data for modelled gas storage level measurement and optimisation. The functionality of the storage measurement technique and the model will be verified on the practice plant.

MODEL-ASSISTED GAS STORAGE LEVEL MEASUREMENT AND OPTIMISATION

The aim of the model-assisted gas storage level measurement and optimisation is to improve gas storage level measurement based on modelling against a gas volume balance, thus optimising storage capacity utilisation by pre-calculating gas volumes. To do that end, plant data relating to substrate quality, feed timing (planned and past) and feed quantities will be applied in robust simulation models in order to pre-calculate the expected gas inflows for a gas storage. Co-generation data, CHP plant running times and gas qualities will additionally be applied to quantify the gas outflow from the storage. The pressure, temperature and composition of the gas in the storage will also be recorded for correction of the gas intake volume so as to include it in pre-calculation of the actual gas volume. This

will then enable recommendations to be made to adapt the feed regime in order to avoid under/overproduction. Reducing the number of malfunction incidents in the gas storage will not only improve the economic viability of a plant but also avoid greenhouse gas emissions.

In making biogas plants more flexible, however, targeted rationalisation can also be employed to ensure gas is produced primarily during times when power generation by the CHP plant is to be concentrated. It has been shown that feed management can also be used to respond to short-term fluctuations in demand (Mauky et al., 2015). To be able to forecast and manipulate gas formation rates in line with demand, predictive control is required. A control system of this kind has been developed at the DBFZ and successfully tested at the DBFZ research biogas plant and at the “Unterer Lindenhof” biogas plant of the University of Hohenheim (Mauky et al., in print).

PROSPECTS FOR 2016

The next steps in the research project will be focused on investigating the features of the various level measurement systems and on the integration and evaluation of the model for gas storage level measurement in the research biogas plant's process control system. The results of the investigations of level measurement systems will then be compared against the modelling results and the adequacy of the various systems will be appraised. In parallel with this, gas storage level measurement will be trialled on a practice plant using an external gas bag operated by project partner company Awite. On that basis, starting in mid-2016 an economic and ecological assessment of the favoured systems will be conducted. This will consider various scenarios of plant operation, in order to map a broad spectrum of



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the practice plants and their possible states. Finally, all the results will be collated in order to present recommendations for the modification of existing and construction of new integrated and separate gas storage systems at a biogas plant.

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Project summary

Duration:	09/2014–02/2017
Status:	running
Project partner:	DBFZ Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum gGmbH, Awite Bioenergie GmbH
Contact:	Mathias Stur
Project number:	O3KB094A
Funding body:	Project Management Jülich/Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) – Funding programme „Biomass energy use“



3.3 RESEARCH FOCUS III: PROCESSES FOR CHEMICAL BIOENERGY CARRIERS AND FUELS

“Key elements in implementing the objectives of the Bioeconomy Strategy are research into and development of innovative technologies to maximize the flexibility, efficiency and sustainability of biorefinery concepts. They will enable a wide variety of different products made from biomass to be used as sources of materials and energy.”

(Dr. Franziska Müller-Langer, Head of the research focus area “Processes for chemical bioenergy carriers and fuels”)

This area of research focus is an important element of the overall process chain from the raw biomass material to biofuels and chemical bioenergy sources as products of biorefineries. In addition to process and concept development, it also comprises implementation on a laboratory and pilot plant scale, as well as assessment of technical systems. The primary aim is to contribute by innovative technology to the flexible operation, high efficiency and sustainable conception of biorefineries, thereby also fulfilling the requirements within the context of the bioeconomy.

To that end, chemical refinement focused on hydrothermal processes (HTP) will be advanced. The development of fractioning for solid-liquid and liquid-liquid separation plays a key role as a link between the individual areas of research focus (in particular in conjunction with anaerobic processes and HTP interim products). Another element is the development of synthesis gas processes to create high-grade products, focused on biomethane in the form of bio-synthetic natural gas (bio-SNG). In the short term, an exemplary HTP-based biorefinery concept will be developed. To that end, the work within the research focus area will concentrate

on (i) analysis of relevant individual processes and required system components; (ii) preliminary trials for selected individual processes (e.g. HTP, carburetion, methanisation to form SNG) and (iii) reparation of an accompanying technical systems assessment (focus: material and energy balancing, cost and economic viability, environmental impact).

BIOECONOMY CLUSTER/ACCOMPANYING RESEARCH PLANT CONCEPT ANALYSIS AT DBFZ

The development and design of new biomass-based technologies and processes for biorefineries poses a complex and multi-layered challenge owing to the different raw materials, the wide range of potential products and the innovative nature of the technical processes. In order to identify and utilise the potential for optimisation through new processes and technologies early on, right from the development phase, appropriate assessment methods are essential. Those methods must permit robust analysis of purely technical characteristics, costs and other economic factors, as well as ecological factors, to provide a comparative classification in the context of sustainable bioeconomy concepts. These action areas will also be designated and promoted as key research fields within the framework of the relevant national action plans of the German Federal Government and as set out in the “National Bioeconomy Research Strategy 2030” and the “Biorefineries Roadmap”. The core aims of the “Plant balance analysis and assessment” subproject were thus to develop, analyse, assess and optimise biorefinery concepts.

As part of the “plant concept analysis” work package, various laboratory and pilot plant scale technologies of the BioEconomy Cluster were linked to beechwood-based biorefinery concepts. These were scaled-up in process simulations to large-scale technical plant operations such as would typically be needed for commercial applications. To do that end, process design and simulation methods as well as cost analysis and life-cycle assessment (LCA) were applied and developed to meet the needs of bio-based technologies.

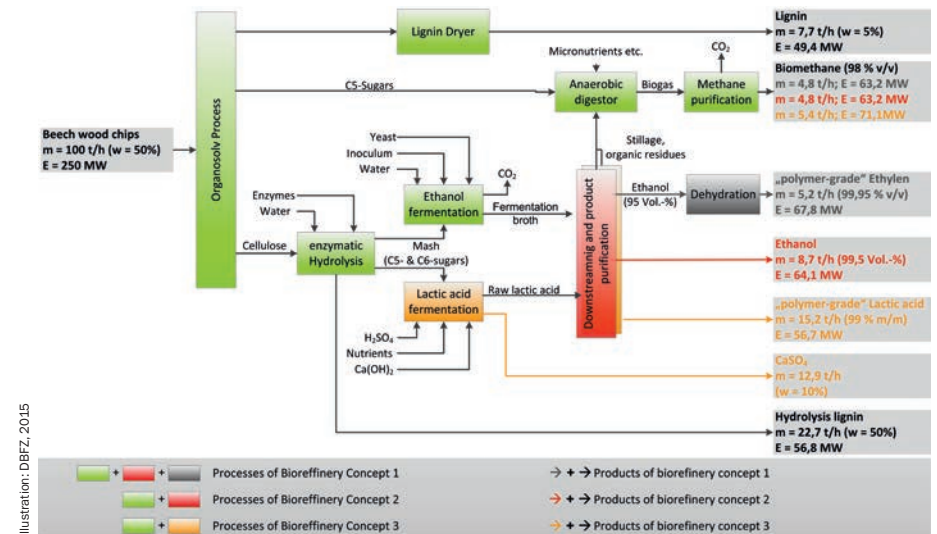


Illustration: DBFZ, 2015

Fig. 8 Block diagrams including mass(m) and energy (E) balances of the three biorefinery concepts investigated

KEY RESULTS

In order to identify suitable process paths, an input-output structure was initially defined. Potential raw materials and products for the purpose were specified in conjunction with the BioEconomy Leadership Cluster partners. Building on that, various biorefinery concepts were developed within an overarching process structure. From the various concepts, promising refinery models were identified and modelled in detail and subjected to balance analysis using process simulation software. The process design produced three biorefinery concepts which were subjected to more detailed analysis (Figure 8).

Suitable alternatives for optimisation of the biorefinery concepts were identified by an iterative process based on the sustainability assessment and the resultant key economic and ecological parameters. Figure 9 presents an overview of four biorefinery concepts based on the economic and ecological criteria. The ecological life-cycle assessment was carried out by the efficiency appraisal method ReCiPe, with scaling based on global environmental effects and hierarchical weighting.

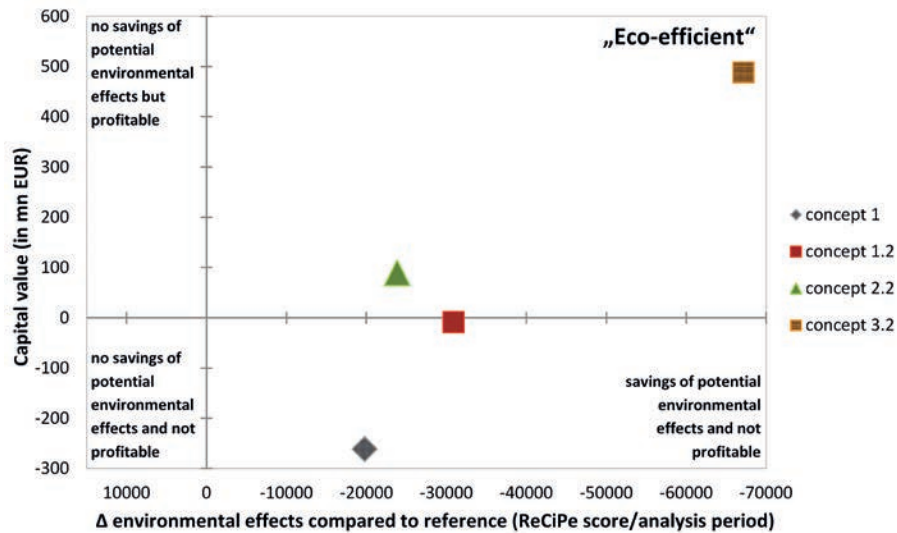


Illustration: DBFZ, 2015

Fig. 9 Comparison of biorefinery concepts based on criteria of eco-efficiency

THE PLANT CONCEPT ANALYSIS RESULTS IN THE FOLLOWING CORE STATEMENTS:

The biorefinery concepts investigated were designed and analysed applying the technologies developed and enhanced within the BioEconomy Cluster on the basis of robust literature data. The trend is observed that the three biorefinery concepts have high demand for process water, and accordingly large amounts of process energy, in particular process steam, such as for product cleaning and recovery. The application of targeted optimisation methods (such as heat integration) can significantly reduce consumption of process water and energy.

The success of the biorefinery concepts investigated here will be decisively determined by the most complete and cost-effective possible use of all raw material components. The hemicellulose fraction is used in the three concepts investigated to produce biogas and biomethane. Utilising this fraction for the targeted production of chemicals such as sugars, furans and/or organic acids by hydrothermal and/or fermentative methods offers great potential. Further research is required for this.

The construction and operation of large-scale beechwood-based biorefineries can be economically viable. Key factors in this are the willingness to pay for bio-based products and price trends in fossil-fuel reference products.

Recovery of base chemicals (such as ethylene) from biomass requires large raw material capacities of at least 400,000 t/a (dm) in order to compete with fossil-fuel sources and also provide discernible potential for substitution. The production of specialty chemicals such as lactic acid, or of niche products, can be viable even on a smaller scale.

All the biorefinery concepts presented show major savings compared to conventional (fossil-based) technologies in relation to their impacts on global warming and resource consumption. In terms of eutrophy, toxicity and fine dust formation, the indicators are higher. Applying a scaling and weighting based on social preferences, however, the significance of those categories is not judged to be as high as the savings in terms of global warming and resource consumption.

Methods of process design and ecological life-cycle assessment have been upgraded for application to biorefinery concepts. The life-cycle assessment and eco-efficiency analysis, in particular, considered methodological challenges which occur in conjunction with all newly developed bio-based technologies. The methods developed and enhanced in the project are also applicable to non-bio-based technologies.

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Project summary

Duration:	07/2012–06/2017
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Project partner:	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ and Leipzig Trade Academy HHL (Subproject within the Bioeconomy Cluster)
Contact:	Arne Gröngroft, Stefan Majer, Dr.-Ing. Franziska Müller-Langer
Project number:	FKZ 031A078B
Funding body:	Federal Ministry of Education and Research/ Project Management Jülich



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3.4 RESEARCH FOCUS IV: SMARTBIOMASSHEAT

“Future heat supply from biogenic solid fuels must become much more efficient, flexible and tailored to system requirements – it needs to get smarter!”

(Dr. Volker Lenz, Head of the research focus area “SmartBiomassHeat”)

The research focus area concentrates on small-scale, renewable heat production in single units and small combinations up to village or town neighbourhood scale using intelligent heat technologies interlinking other renewable energy sources and based on biomasses primarily originating from residues, by-products and wastes. The primary aim is to make optimal technological and economic use of all renewable heat resources based on flexible, demand-adapted deployment of heat technologies based on biomass. This involves mapping the entire chain from grafting of the biomass fuels through new conversion plants to integration into the heat and power grid of the biomass heaters (executed in future also as combined heat and power plants), analysing, simulating and optimising them individually and collectively. It will also entail the necessary technical component development and linking control research and development through flexible operation (including micro- and small-scale CHP) to achieve efficient, environmentally friendly, economical, safe, demand-adapted, flexible and sustainable (smart) operation (SmartBiomassHeat).

The project described in the following demonstrates the DBFZ’s research into the key question of the data and communications integration of a rapidly increasing number of producers and consumers into a single network with the aim of creating stable, cost-effective power supply.

E-COCKPIT (AUTOMATED OUTPUT SAFEGUARDING IN A GRID OF A THOUSAND DISTRIBUTED ENERGY PRODUCERS APPLYING AN ICT COCKPIT APPROACH BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT)

The “E-Cockpit” project’s overarching goal was to develop a prototype ICT-aided research and demonstration platform in order to implement and study the global application scenario of supply chain management in the energy sector. The platform was designed to centrally collate and process data from small-scale plants connected to the electricity grid (Figure 10) and provide the data in prepared form to the supply chain players who need it in order to perform their functions optimally. This involved transferring measurement data from linked plants to the platform in accordance with the international standard IEC 61850. That standard has been in force in the power sector in relation to secondary technologies for the construction of new, or modification of existing, substations for some 15 years, but has to date not been applied to the low-voltage grid (too complex to configure, and too expensive). In addition to mapping application scenarios on the research platform, the project aimed to determine how the data links of the power producers can be most usefully implemented in terms of data volumes, data resolution, number of measuring points and the like – that is to say, what an energy information network, or ICT-based platform, has to deliver for the players in the energy sector depending on their respective market roles. The transparent provision and processing of plant data was not envisaged for a specific market role (e.g. virtual power plants from the retail perspective), but was to be investigated in terms of benefit for all market players.

While the general intention in the course of the project was focused on additionally obtaining measurement data from the distribution network and enabling power producers to influence the grid through ICT means, the project also revealed that the grid usability of plants has to be considered in a highly differentiated way – by both producers and consumers. Critical factors in these considerations are the grid and consumer structures. To cite just one example: requirements in urban areas of conventionally heavy energy consumption, with well developed power grids, are lower than in rural areas with sporadic oversupplies of electricity. Moreover, many technical connection conditions have been upgraded in recent years and adapted to requirements in terms of the shift in the producer structure (cen-



Fig. 10 Photovoltaic plant in the DBFZ test field

tralised fossil-fuel and nuclear power to distributed renewables) and of the power grid (both the transport network and even more so the distribution network, i.e. low voltage up to 110 kV high voltage) (‘SysStabV’ system stability regulation for the first time in 2012; ‘SDLWindV’ system services regulation for the first time in 2009). At the same time, the expansion of grids has been driven forward (see the grid development plans of the four German transmission system operators since 2012; ‘NABEG’ Act stipulating measures to speed up grid development of 2011). All this initially eased some of the problems which are forcing grid system operators to intervene more in grid management in the face of the massive expansion of renewables producers: lack of reactive power infeed, potential voltage band infringements (voltage rise), lack of possibilities for reducing effective power at connected distributed producers. A key aspect in this is the 50.2 Hz issue (simultaneous shutdown of all PV plants on reaching the 50.2 Hz grid frequency limit). Nevertheless, the number of manual interventions by the grid system operators has increased substantially, as a means of assuring technical safety, reliability and quality of power supply within their areas of responsibility, and in the case

of the transmission system operators in order to assume system responsibility jointly with the distribution network operators. In short: framework conditions have been created which more closely than to date consider the changed requirements of the power grid at the level of electrotechnical integration: that is to say, locally.

RESULTS

The project revealed that the organisational and regulatory barriers are greater than the technical ones. Proof of technical feasibility was provided. Owing to the lack of market, however, only prototype equipment was available. That circumstance, too, has changed. The protection profiles and technical guidelines of the German Federal Office of Information Technology Security (BSI) for ICT components to safeguard data exchange with billing equipment in the power grid (Smart Meter Gateways and security modules) have been published. The draft Act relating to the Digitisation of the Energy Transition of Autumn 2015 assigns the function of the administrator of this equipment in the Measuring Point Operations Act (MSbG) to a market role. This point explicitly, relating to the previously unclarified responsibility of a gateway provider (for meters, but also for other measurement data from the power grid which does not lie within the area of responsibility of the grid operator) was one of the biggest obstacles in establishing the research and demonstration platform, because it also entails issues such as access rights concepts, data protection, IT security and data ownership, with potential remuneration models for data provisioning (Figure 11).

In the course of the project it likewise became clear that it does not make sense to equip every mini electrical system (whether at the producer or at the consumer) with a smart meter capable of communicating beyond property boundaries, to generate, process and utilise masses of data regardless of the structure of the power grid. These findings coincide with the stipulation in the draft MSbG act that smart metering systems should only be installed in plants of 7 kW installed power and above (in the case of CHP and EEG-compliant plants) and where annual consumption is 6,000 kWh or more. Nevertheless, the plans do envisage the use of state-of-the-art metering systems for smaller installations by the year 2032,

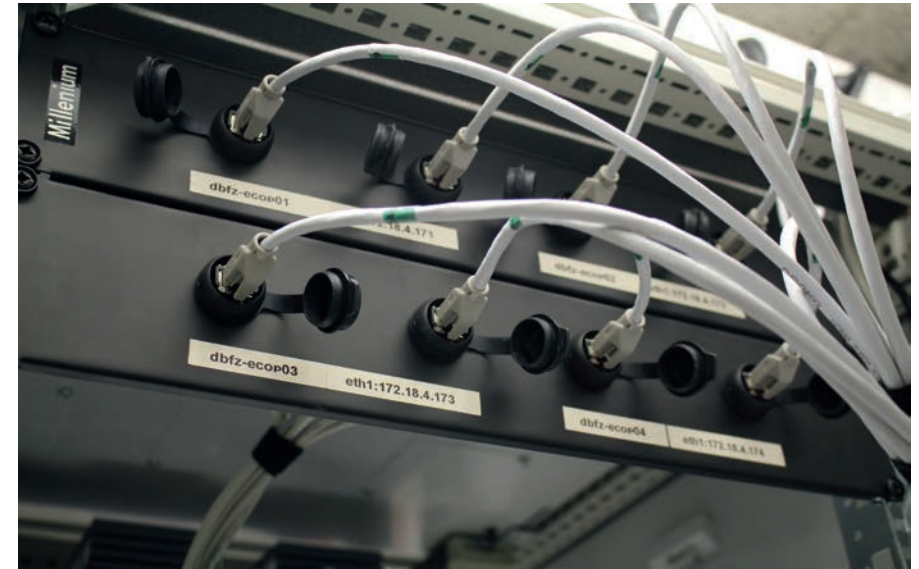


Fig. 11 Integration of gateways into the IT infrastructure



Fig. 12 Wind turbine electrical cabinet with grid monitoring and provision of measurement data to the gateway

incorporating technical features to visualise consumption data. As a result, from then on even mini-plants would have on-site measurement data available for autonomous controls at locations with and without their own energy producers. The kinds of miniature processors, controllers or the like which should be used to build such control systems remains to be investigated (Figure 12).

PROSPECTS FOR 2016

The framework has been set out. For residential and small commercial properties the question is not whether but when the acquisition and utilisation of data for optimised energy use will begin. Locale interconnected networks are the best option to consider in this context. The use of autonomous control systems working with up-to-date data from the power grid and so relatively independent of computer hackers or power market prices can effectively exploit the potential for shifting energy consumption and local production, and so provide one of the potential contributors to the remodelling and operation of a future-proof power grid. From the perspective of our research focus area, it is irrelevant whether the use of a state-of-the-art control solution is remunerated or stipulated as mandatory by the regulators.

For more information visit: www.smartbiomassheat.de

Project summary

Status:	finished
Project partner:	Institute for Applied Informatics (InfAI) e. V. at the University Leipzig
Contact:	Kerstin Wurdinger, Dr. Andreas Ortwein
Project number:	100127660
Funding body:	Sächsische Aufbaubank – Förderbank – (SAB)



Key reference projects and publications

- Project: KOMBIOPT – Energiemanagementsystem zur kombinierten Nutzung erneuerbarer Energien, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e. V., 01.02.2015–31.07.2017 (FKZ: 22403113)
- Project: Untersuchung und Screening erweiterter Qualitätsparameter zur Verbesserung der emissionsrelevanten Holzpelletqualität in der Praxis, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e. V., 01.03.2015–30.09.2015 (FKZ: 22017914)
- Project: IbeKET – Innovatives bedarfsangepasstes Kommunal-Energieträger-Konzept, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie/Projektträger Jülich, 15.09.2013–31.01.2016 (FKZ: 03KB088D)
- Project: MiscPelTherm – Miscanthus-Mischpellet Brenner mit kleiner Wärmeleistung; Experimentelle Brennerentwicklung auf dem Prüfstand, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie/AiF, 01.07.2014–30.06.2017 (FKZ: KF2028012ST4)
- Project: KIC Inno Energy Construction of small-to-medium capacity boilers for clean an efficient combustion of biomass for heating, KIC Inn Energy, EU-Projekt, 05.04.2012–31.03.2016
- Publication: Wurdinger, K.; Dotzauer, M.; Schaubach, K.; Ziegler, D.; Ortwein, A. (2015): Herausforderungen bei der Modellierung einer IKT-Plattform für Akteure der Energiebranche. In: Tagungsband zur ETG-Fachtagung: Von Smart Grids zu Smart Markets 2015. Bd. 145. S. 1–6. Berlin, Offenbach: VDE-Verlag, Kassel – ISBN 978-3-8007-3897-7.
- Publication: Schmidt, S.; Wurdinger, K. (2014): Versuchsfeld zur Untersuchung flexibler Strombereitstellung dezentraler Energieerzeuger. In: DBFZ-Jahrestagung Bioenergie. Vielseitig, sicher, wirtschaftlich, sauber?! S. 212–213. Leipzig – ISSN 2199-9384.
- Publication: Sprick, S., Ryll, T., Wurdinger, K., Werner, A., Franczyk, B., Grieger, M., Pfeifer, J., Wehlitz, R.: Regenerative Energien Management-Cockpit (REMC): Informationstransparenz in Energiewertschöpfungsnetzwerken. In: Werner, A., Kühne, S., Arnold, G., Schmidt, J. (Hrsg.): Proceedings. Energy EcoSystems Conference 2013. Leipziger Beiträge zur Informatik: Band XLII. Leipzig – ISBN: 978-3-941608-29-0.
- Publication: Sprick, S., Ortwein, A., Wurdinger, K.: Supply Chain Management in renewable energy networks. Advanced Research in Scientific Areas 2012, International Virtual Conference, 3.–7. Dezember 2012. – <http://www.arsa-conf.com>.



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3.5 RESEARCH FOCUS V: CATALYTIC EMISSION CONTROL

“Researching and developing catalytic processes for emission control in the combustion of biomass energy sources to safeguard the essential eco-friendliness of bioenergy.”

(Dr. Ingo Hartmann, Head of the research focus area “Catalytic emission control”)

The primary aim for this focus area is to do research on catalytic emission control for combustion processes using solid-state catalysts and having gaseous, liquid and solid bioenergy sources. The focus is on catalytic reduction of the combustion emissions methane (CH₄), non-methane volatile organic compounds, semi- and non-volatile hydrocarbons such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PACs) and polychlorinated dibenzodioxins/polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDD/PCDF), soot particles (black carbon) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x). These pollutants can be substantially reduced by catalytic exhaust systems and integrated methods. The aim is to develop catalysts and processes which permit virtually zero-emission combustion of bioenergy sources in line with environmental requirements.

DEMONSTRATION OF METHODS OF COMBINED REDUCTION FOR NITROGEN OXIDES AND FINE DUST IN COMBUSTION PLANTS

The sustained growth in biomass use as an energy source must be more extensively based on biogenic by-products and residues in the future, because food production must not be impaired and the use of biomass as a raw material resource



is becoming increasingly important. Agricultural residues such as straw are particularly attractive, as there is sufficient unused potential, and their use avoids competitions between food and energy crops for land. However, the combustion of alternative biomasses produces more dust and nitrogen oxide emissions than natural wood fuels, and those emissions pose a significant risk to human health and the environment. Suitable methods for the abatement of dust and nitrogen oxides from the combustion of alternative biomasses have only been available for large-scale plants in the megawatt range by now. However, biogenic residues such as straw can only be used in a cost-effective and ecologically way in the low and medium power range. Moreover, distributed plants can be constructed and operated much more flexibly in terms of adaptation to demand. A broad-based market coverage is only possible in the low and medium power range if economically viable waste gas cleaning methods are available which reliably enable compliance with existing emission limits.

The 'TA Luft' clean air regulations in Germany are currently being revised and it is likely that the limits for dust and nitrogen oxides will be tightened. When using non-woody biogenic solid fuels, the 'TA Luft' limits apply as from a nominal heat output of 100 kW. To date, only a dust collector was required in order to meet the existing limit requirements. In future, when using alternative biogenic solid fuels secondary reduction of nitrogen oxide emissions will additionally be necessary, because primary measures such as air staging, fuel staging and exhaust gas recirculation cannot achieve adequate reduction of nitrogen oxide formation from nitrogen contained in the fuel. With this background, it is the aim of the joint research project to develop a method for removing dust from flue gases combined with simultaneous reduction of nitrogen oxides for furnaces operated with non-woody biomass fuels, which can be cost-effectively deployed in the power range (up to 1 MW).

WORKING AIMS

The basis of the flue gas cleaning system is a catalytic-coated fabric material which enables dust separation by means of a fabric filter to be combined with selective catalytic reduction (SCR) of NO_x. The dust is separated on the outer sur-

face of the filter element and the nitrogen oxide is then reduced on the catalytic coated inside. The reducing agent is injected into the waste gas upstream of the filter. Alternatively, the NH₃-slip of a combined non-catalytic reduction (SNCR) can be used. Both ammonia gas and urea solution can be used as reducing agent. The waste gas cleaning method developed in the project uses urea (32.5% solution) – a method which has also been successfully used for some time to reduce nitrogen oxides in the motor vehicle sector. The urea solution offers major advantages in terms of availability and handling.

The flue gas cleaning method will be developed for the power range from 0.1 to 1 MW. Since the application of secondary measures entails increased capital investment and operating costs, it is only cost-effective above a certain power range. Mature solutions for the power range well above 1 MW already exist on the market. The method is being developed so that the future emission limits in Germany can be clearly and safely maintained and permanent trouble-free operation can be ensured. The following technical developments are intended in detail:

- Prototype development of a catalytically active fabric filter for the power range (0.1–1 MW)
- Development and construction of a dosing system for the reducing agent
- Research into the combination of SNCR and SCR methods
- Safeguarding the long-term stability of the SCR catalyst
- Development of an overall system control for the boiler, dust filter and dosing system
- Demonstration of the method at a grate furnace for wood chips and chopped straw and also straw pellets

The following target values (reference: 11 vol. % O₂) are set for the cleaned waste gas:

- Dust ≤ 5 mg/m³ i. n.
- NO_x ≤ 50 mg/m³ i. n.
- NH₃ ≤ 5 mg/m³ i. n.

PILOT PLANT AND PROCESS SCHEMATIC

The developments and configuration tests are being carried out on a step grate furnace with 120 kW nominal output (fuel: wood chips and straw) at the DBFZ. The pilot plant is automatically controlled by a PLC (programmable logic controller) developed by the Fraunhofer Institute for Factory Operation and Automation (IFF). The plant's operating state is continuously monitored by different sensors, e.g. temperature, O_2 and NO_x .

For the tests, a flue gas system was constructed with a downstream cyclone spark arrester. For the boiler start-up phase, a bypass was integrated to bypass the filter until the necessary gas temperature is reached. When flue gas passes through the filter in the cold state, condensation and sticking of the filter tubing can occur, as well as possible deactivation of the catalytically active filter. Moreover, the bypass serves as a safety device in the event of unacceptable high pressure drop at the filter. The filter was also fitted with an auxiliary heater for more rapid heating and targeted adjustment of the temperatures at the filter. As a result, the influence of the temperatures on the nitrogen oxide reduction performance of the filter can also be systematically investigated.

Taking into account the necessary investment in relation to the achievable reduction, various possibilities for the combined reduction of dust and nitrogen oxides will be investigated. Potential options are a single application of the SCR method with injection of the reducing agent directly upstream of the catalytically active filter as well as a combination of SNCR and SCR.



Fig. 13 Pilot plant outside view (left) and inside view (right)

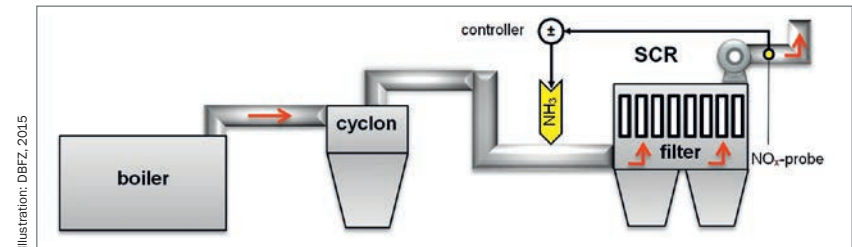


Fig. 14 SCR method with measurement of the NO_x concentration in the pure gas

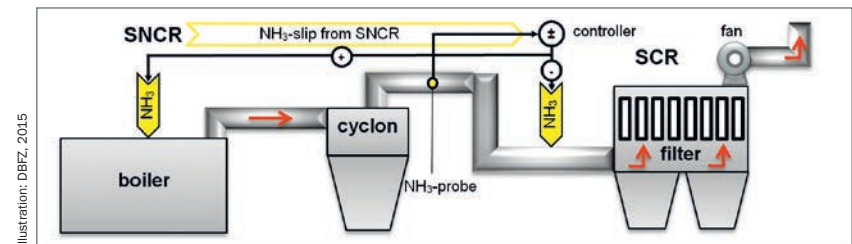


Fig. 15 Combination of SNCR and SCR methods

Figure 14 shows the system having only an injection of the reducing agent upstream of the filter. Here, the NO_x content is measured by a sensor in the flue gas downstream of the catalytically active filter and is regulated with the quantity of reducing agent injected into the waste gas line. This simultaneously has the advantage that the NO_x emissions are continuously monitored, thereby also enabling verification of regulatory compliance.

Figure 15 shows the combination of SNCR and SCR methods. The reducing agent is initially injected directly into the combustion chamber. In the SNCR method, NH_3 slip normally occurs which can be used for further catalytic reduction of the nitrogen oxides remaining in the waste gas. A NH_3 sensor upstream of the filter measures the amount of the reductant remaining in the waste gas and adjusts it by way of a set point controller. Potential options in this are injection of the reducing agent into the combustion chamber as an isolated process as well as parallel dosing of the reducing agent into the furnace and upstream of the filter.

PROSPECTS FOR 2016

After the pilot plant was set up and put into operation in 2015, the plan for 2016 is to conduct extensive combustion experiments with wood chips, straw pellets and chopped straw as fuels. The separation rate of the dust filter and the nitrogen oxide

reduction rate of the SCR function will be measured in the process. First the variant with SCR-only will be tested, and the dosing of the reducing agent into the flue gas will be optimized. This will involve the variation of several parameters such as the nozzle geometry and diameter, the location and angle of injection, and the amount of reducing agent as well as the optimization of the process with a view to achieving the flue gas targets. Afterwards experiments at various power levels and with the different fuels can be performed. A second variant will be investigated in 2016 in dominating the SNCR and SCR methods. For the method presented in Figure 15 there are still different implementation options, which will be investigated in more detail dependent on the interim results obtained. If the results are positive, an application for a follow-up project will be submitted, in which the flue gas cleaning process will be advanced and optimized with regard to long-term stability and economic viability.

Project summary

Duration:	09/2014–08/2016
Status:	running
Project partner:	Dr. Weigel Anlagenbau GmbH, Industrietechnik Barleben GmbH, Fraunhofer Institute for Factory Operation and Automation (IFF)
Contact:	Mario König
Project number:	03KB096 A-D
Funding body:	Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy/ Project Management Jülich



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Key reference projects and publications

- Project: Nachrüstung zum katalytischen Abbau von gasförmigen organischen Emissionen aus Kaminöfen, Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, 01.08.2013–31.01.2015 (FKZ: 31032)
- Project: GASKAT – Emissionsarmer Scheitholzvergaserkessel mit integriertem Katalysator und optimierter Verbrennungsregelung, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie/AiF, 01.01.2013–30.11.2015 (FKZ: KF2028006ST2)
- Project: Demonstration von Verfahren zur kombinierten Reduktion von Stickoxiden und Feinstaub aus Biomassefeuerungen, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie/Projektträger Jülich, 01.09.2014–31.08.2016 (FKZ: 03KB096A)
- Project: Untersuchung innovativer Ansätze zur Minderung der Schadstoffemissionen von Kaminöfen durch katalytisch wirksame Baugruppen – Hauptphase „NEKO – Neuartiger emissionsarmer Kaminofen“, Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt/Specht, 01.04.2013–31.03.2015
- Project: Schnelltest zur Alterungsnachstellung von Dieselmotorkatalysatoren im Betrieb mit Biokraftstoffen, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachhaltigkeitsforschung, 01.10.2014–30.09.2017 (FKZ: 22014514)
- Publication: König, M.; Hartmann, I.: „Scheitholzvergaser mit integriertem Katalysator“, Poster auf dem 6. Fachkolloquium – Effiziente und schadstoffarme Verbrennungstechnologien für Biomasse, 12. Mai 2015, Stuttgart.
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- Publication: Bindig, R.; Butt, S.; Hartmann, I. (2015): Emission Abatement at Small-Scale Biomass Combustion Unit with High-Temperature Catalysts. In: Advanced Biofuels: Using Catalytic Routes for the Conversion of Biomass Platform Molecules. S. 189–202. 1. Auflage. Apple Academic Press. Oakville, Kanada – ISBN 978-1-77188-132-6
- Publication: Ahmad Alyosef, H.; Schneider, D.; Wasersleben, S.; Roggendorf, H.; Weiß, M.; Eilert, A.; Denecke, R.; Hartmann, I.; Enke, D. (2015): Meso/Macroporous Silica from Miscanthus, Cereal Remnant Pellets, and Wheat Straw. In: ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering. Bd. 3 (Nr. 9). S. 2012–2021. doi: 10.1021/acsschemeng.5b00275.
- Publication: Matthes, M.; Hartmann, I.; Groll, A.; Riebel, U. (2015): Investigation on application and performance of emission reduction measures at a pellet boiler. In: Biomass Conversion and Biorefinery. S. 1–13. doi: 10.1007/s13399-015-0187-1 – ISSN 2190-6815.

4 COOPERATION AGREEMENTS, NETWORKING, INNOVATION

Scientific cooperation with centres of higher education and other research establishments is an essential element of the DBFZ's work. The focus of in-house activities is on realising the defined research goals based on applied research and development (R&D). Subsidiary topics are considered in conjunction with network partners, so as to spread the relevant knowledge as broadly as possible. The aim is to create stable scientific networks based on active interchange between key national and international partners in the field of bioenergy research and development and bioeconomics. Ongoing collaboration with permanent partners is maintained in particular with regard to basic research and in areas in which the DBFZ has not yet established detailed specialist expertise. A strategic cooperation with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) to carry out the necessary basic research relating to assessment of bioenergy systems and into the micro-biological principles underlying biochemical processes has been established in recent years. As part of the cooperation, the DBFZ's Bioenergy Systems research department works closely with the UFZ's Bioenergy Department. And the DBFZ's Biochemical Conversion research department works closely with the UFZ's Microbiology Department.

An intensive cooperation between the DBFZ's research focus areas and the Department of Waste Management and Material Flow of the University of Rostock relating to the recovery of organic wastes and residues for energy use has been established. The applied research and development work of the DBFZ is also carried out in close cooperation with industrial partners. This ensures the necessary practical orientation, as well as providing detailed insights into markets, so enabling a focus on innovative and realisable solutions. The DBFZ assures the

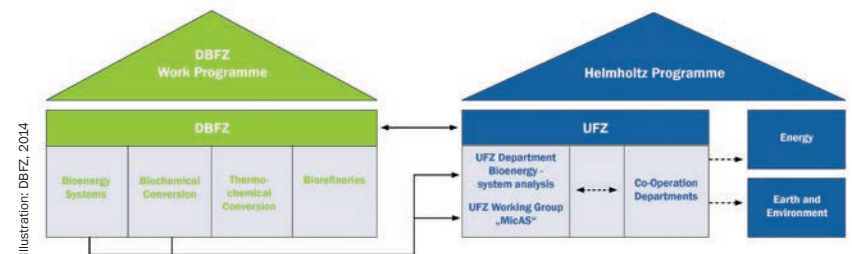


Fig. 16 Cooperation between DBFZ and UFZ

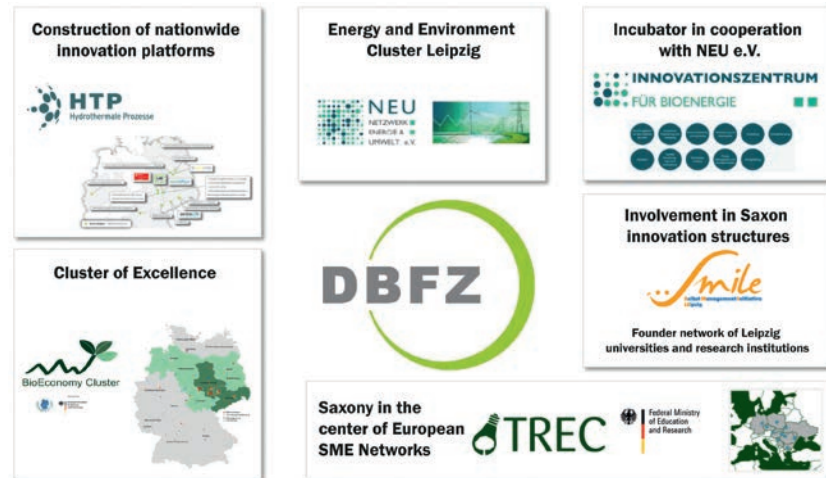
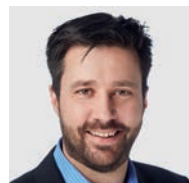


Fig. 17 The DBFZ within regional industrial networks

adoption of a neutral, holistic view in cooperation projects with industry. The approach enables the DBFZ to apply its extensive expertise to market-oriented R&D projects. Intensive participation by business is the norm in third-party funded projects. The DBFZ's research departments maintain extensive national and international links with companies which carry out R&D in the relevant fields. These cooperation agreements fulfill the requirement of industry participation and orientation to market needs in funded projects.

In addition to its outstanding regional networking links at the location within the Energy and Environment Cluster (NEU e.V.) in Leipzig and industry-related memberships of R&D networks such as "Energy Saxony e.V.", the DBFZ is also actively involved in research clusters such as the BMBF BioEconomy Cluster, in which it coordinates entire research fields. The DBFZ also seeks to participate in other research clusters and to handle specific subject areas in state-wide multiplier organisations. The DBFZ actively interlinks industrial and scientific players in the course of specially funded subject-specific innovation forums aimed at creating institutionalised innovation networks.



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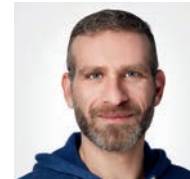
START-UP NETWORK WITH SMILE

Since early 2015 the DBFZ has been a partner in the Leipzig-based start-up network "SMILE". The network enables DBFZ staff and interested parties from the scientific and business communities to participate in a wide range of seminars, workshops and coaching sessions for start-ups. Thanks to the DBFZ's membership of the "SMILE" network, the spin-offs from its work can also benefit from grants and pre-launch support from the EXIST start-up scheme.

Specific aims of SMILE at the DBFZ are:

- Raising awareness for entrepreneurial activity
- Qualification for teaching the necessary skills and knowledge to create business models, manage business start-ups and support personal development
- Supporting the development of business models and plans, aiding the search for partners to finance business models, and backing the market launch of start-up business products and services
- Implementing innovative measures to promote pilot applications of start-up products and services
- Advancement of networking with the start-up initiatives in the state of Saxony in executing joint project measures

For additional information visit: www.smile.uni-leipzig.de



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5

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT TEAM

“The world of science is becoming ever more complex and dynamic. Good management is therefore a key factor in the success of scientific establishments looking to survive and prosper in the international competitive environment.”

(Dr. Nikolaus Blum, Commercial Director of the Helmholtz Centre Munich)

The DBFZ's administration departments (Executive support Team) report directly to the Scientific Managing Director Prof. Dr. Michael Nelles. Alongside the Press and Public Relations department, the Research, Innovation and International coordinators work closely with the four DBFZ research departments to utilise synergies in strategic research and project management, consortium creation and internationalisation for the entire research centre.



Fig. 18 The scientific administration departments and the Press and Public Relations department of the DBFZ

5.1 INNOVATION COORDINATOR

The rapid implementation of the scientific results obtained by the DBFZ and its partner into marketable products, processes and services is supported and coordinated by the Innovation Coordinator Dipl. Holzwirt Romann Glowacki. His administration department establishes network links among partners in the fields of industry, finance and applied bioenergy research, as well as involving public-sector administration. One of the key tasks of the Innovation Coordinator is to consolidate and utilise these competencies along the innovation chain in order to create an environment which promotes innovation.

2015 was marked by a strategic re-alignment of the DBFZ. The main aim is for the five research focus areas to provide the DBFZ with a more distinct scientific profile. The role of the Innovation Coordinator in this is to supervise and enable rapid translation of the scientific results obtained by the DBFZ and its partners into marketable products, processes and services. Along with the ongoing development of the innovation strategy, the key tasks of the Innovation Coordinator in 2015 were to procure third-party funding from and with industry for the DBFZ and to publish the results of projects/activities together with industry.

PROACTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF IN-HOUSE R&D NETWORKS

In June 2015, the instigation of the “Hydrothermal Processes” innovation forum (www.htp-inno.de) marked the launch of a Hydrothermal Processes (HTP) innovation network. With HTP, water-rich biogenic residue flows can be converted into solid, liquid or gaseous carbon carriers and enriched further. The innovation forum sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) brought



Fig. 19 Hydrothermal Processes Forum held on June 15, 2015 in Leipzig

together skills and key players from research and industry all across Germany. In addition to identifying concrete value chains, project consortia were pre-structured and R&D projects developed. The results were published in a comprehensive work titled Innovationsforum “Hydrothermale Prozesse”. The network is open by design, and is targeted at all the players along the value chains from wet biogenic residue flows, from the residual material producer or disposal contractor, through plant construction, to the processors of solid or liquid biogenic carbons from all industrial sectors, including use for chemicals, as raw materials, and as an energy source. The extraction and processing of oils, phenols, solid carbons, hydrophobic filter media, adsorbents, catalyst carriers, through to solid or liquid energy source materials is the focus of ongoing R&D network development.

Another activity launched in 2015 was the creation of a ‘growth core’ titled SERAPLANT in the field of nutrient recycling. The growth core is based in Leipzig

(the main driver being LAV Markranstädt GmbH), and it is oriented to various nutrient recycling processes. The DBFZ is an active member, and is the lead organisation in the field of thermo-chemical conversion. The aim is for nutrient recycling to be strategically integrated into various biomass-processing value chains (Bioeconomy, Bioenergy) through the DBFZ. The Fraunhofer IKTS in Dresden is the lead organisation.

In 2015 the Innovation Coordinator additionally coordinated Subject Area 4 relating to use of biomass as an energy source within the BioEconomy Cluster under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Tasks of the Innovation Coordinator which were also performed comprehensively in 2015 included regular meetings, presentations and interchange with the five other Subject Area leads, participation in subject-related conferences (including the 2015 “Global Bioeconomy Summit” in Berlin), and close coordination with the management board of the BioEconomy e.V. organisation.

THE BIOENERGY INNOVATION CENTRE

At the core of the innovation strategy is the Bioenergy Innovation Centre. It serves as the central body for driving innovation processes, as well as a platform for business relocation, start-ups and spin-offs.

The funding is provided by the Energy & Environment Network NEU e.V. It is thus independent of the DBFZ.

A key role is the creation of a simple incubator function for research institution staff looking to start their own businesses and bioenergy companies looking to locate in the region. The aim is to open up and support attractive pathways to self-employment. As well as motivating staff, the Bioenergy Innovation Centre offers them a way to translate their own developments into marketable products and services. The Innovation Centre is being integrated into the regional innovation structure, including through the BMBF-sponsored GISBERT project within the framework of the BioEconomy Cluster. The task of the Innovation Coordinator is to manage the Innovation Centre and the cooperation with the NEU e.V.



REGIONAL NETWORKING WITH NEU e.V. AND ENERGY SAXONY



The Innovation Coordinator is also a member of the management board and treasurer of the Energy & Environment Network NEU e.V. In the past year once again, weekly meetings ensured very close and intensive links with the city of Leipzig. In 2015 the Innovation Coordinator additionally stood in as the DBFZ's representative at the members' assembly of the Energy Saxony e.V. The aim of that organisation is to provide a network for energy-related R&D activities in Saxony. To that end, the Innovation Coordinator contributed to the development of the State of Saxony Energy Research Strategy, initiated and coordinated by Energy Saxony e.V.

Additional information (partially in German language):

www.dbfz.de/web/forschung/kooperationen.html

www.innovationszentrum-bioenergie.de/

www.energiemetropole-leipzig.de/de/schwerpunkte/bioenergie

www.energy-saxony.net/en.html



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5.2 COORDINATOR OF INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

International activities are of increasing importance against the background of the DBFZ's greater visibility in Europe and beyond. Alongside the ongoing joint acquisition of (research) projects with partners, cooperation with leading international universities and extramural research institutions will be further intensified in future. In this way, the scientific research focus areas can be backed by the aim of engaging in top-level research and attaining a leading position in the research sphere. The task of the Coordinator of International Knowledge and Technology Transfer, Dr. Sven Schaller, is to make the accumulated expertise of the DBFZ accessible to interested partners worldwide through joint research projects, exchange of doctoral candidates and reciprocal research secondments (working in close cooperation with the Research Coordinator). A further task of the scientific administration department is to support and selectively expand the international network. This work also includes proposing and arranging reciprocal visits by decision-makers, and organising international workshops and conferences.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SÃO PAULO

One of the highlights of 2015 was the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Instituto de Energia e Ambiente of the University of São Paulo. The University is regularly ranked top in Latin America by some margin. On the basis of the agreement, the DBFZ's top-level research will be strengthened and joint project acquisition promoted over the coming years through a doctoral candidate and scientist exchange programme.

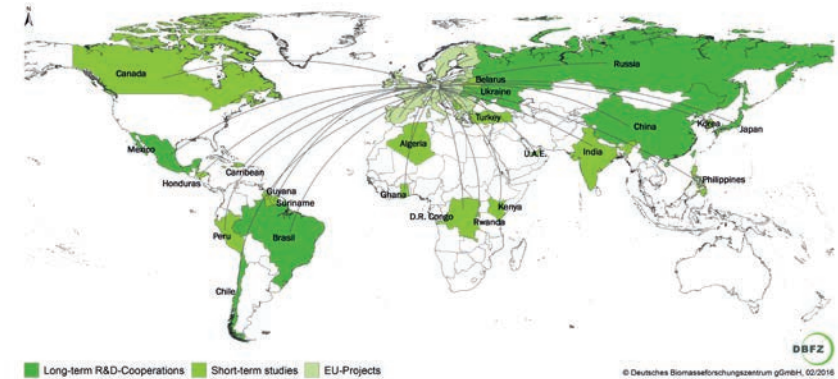


Fig. 20 International activities of the DBFZ

With a view to the DBFZ's expanding activities in the Caribbean region and the increasing opening-up of Cuba, on June 15, 2015 the DBFZ signed a cooperation agreement with the leading-edge technology institution InSTEC (Instituto Superior de Tecnologías y Ciencias Aplicadas). The agreement is under the auspices of the Ministry of Higher Education (MES), and its two research focus areas are nuclear and environmental sciences. As stressed by Prof. Dr. Michael Nelles and InSTEC Rector Prof. Dra. Bárbara Idalmis Garea Moreda at the signing ceremony, the co-



Fig. 21 Cooperation agreement signed with InSTEC (Instituto Superior de Tecnologías y Ciencias Aplicadas) on June 15, 2015

operation will be rapidly put into practice. The focus initially will be on a doctoral candidate exchange programme, but plans for the future also include projects relating to the use of agricultural residues and solid municipal waste as an energy source and as raw materials. InSTEC is one of the leading universities in all Latin America in the field of environmental sciences.

SUMMER SCHOOL WITH TOP CHINESE UNIVERSITIES

Existing contacts with major Chinese universities in the field of biomass and waste recycling were further intensified in 2015. With the support of the Chinese-German Centre for Science Promotion, the German-Chinese Summer School on the use of biogenic waste and residues as an energy source and for raw materials was held at the DBFZ and at the University of Rostock from October 11 to 17, 2015.



Fig. 22 Participants in the Summer School in Leipzig

A total of 36 student scientists, doctoral candidates and lecturers from the DBFZ, the University of Rostock, the University of Leipzig, the HAWK, the FH Lübeck, the University of Tongji, the China Agricultural University and the China University of Petroleum took part in the Summer School. Lectures, group discussions and tours of the DBFZ, the environmental lab of the University of Rostock, the HTC and dry fermentation plant in Halle-Lochau and the waste disposal centre in Rostock enabled the participants to expand their knowledge and discover development trends in the use of biogenic waste and residues as an energy source and for raw materials, as well as to build personal networks and develop ideas for specific joint research projects in Germany and China.



Fig. 23 Prof. Dr. Michael Nelles accompanying the state visit of German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel in Hefei (China) on October 30, 2015

DBFZ BACKS WORLD BANK PROJECT TO BUILD SIX PILOT BIOGAS PLANTS IN HEBEI (CHINA)

The DBFZ continues to be very heavily engaged in China. In order to improve the quality of Chinese biogas plants, a total of six plants in the province of Hebei are being backed with know-how and technology Made in Germany as part of a project partially financed by the World Bank. The high-calibre international group of scientific experts providing advice and support is headed by Prof. Dr. Michael Nelles, the Scientific Managing Director of the DBFZ. “As a consortium of experts, we are delighted to be carrying out the World Bank project. China is a growth market particularly for the combined raw material and energy use of biogenic waste and residues – a field which we will be looking to actively promote and develop based on our extensive expertise,” commented Professor Nelles in the course of a research visit to China. The extent to which the two countries have fostered cooperation in scientific research over recent years was also demonstrated during the visit to China of German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel in late October. On the occasion of the visit, Prof. Nelles represented the DBFZ and the University of Rostock in marking the 30th anniversary of the successful cooperation between the University of Hefei and German universities and research institutions in the field of biomass and waste recycling.

SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE EU “SECTOR” PROJECT

The future of torrefication was discussed on May 6, 2015 at the final meeting of the EU-sponsored „SECTOR“ project in Leipzig. The aim for the more than 20 international project partners from science and industry was to advance torrefication technologies and introduce torrefied biomass onto the market. In the course of the project, the complete value chain was comprehensively assessed by means of logistics and end-use tests of torrefied biomass in combination with laboratory, pilot and demonstration plant experiments as well as sustainability analyses. At the final meeting, project coordinator Prof. Dr. Daniela Thrän gave a positive appraisal of the three-and-a-half year research work: “The SECTOR consortium has done very good work, and has been able to show that torrefied biomass has a promising



Fig. 24 Final meeting of the EU “SECTOR” project at the DBFZ on May 7, 2015

future both in terms of use as an energy source and as a raw material – especially in an international context.”



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5.3

RESEARCH COORDINATOR

The Research Coordinator's administration department supports links among scientists between the disciplines and research departments, as well as with other research institutions, and so helps to utilise synergies and promote expertise in-house. The key tasks of the administration department include:

- Monitoring of medium- and long-term research planning
- Evaluation of and advice on national and international project submissions and support to the inter-departmental development of project submissions
- Hosting of internal information and training events in relation to current tenders, project request submission and management
- Preparing, organising and supervising internal and external evaluations and supporting the Research Advisory Council (RAC)
- Optimising the DBFZ's scientific management and quality assurance based on good scientific practice
- Coordinating information exchange with and reporting to the institutional sponsor, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), on research activities at the DBFZ
- Implementing the doctoral programme and supporting the DBFZ's doctoral candidates.

RESEARCH PLANNING AND H2020 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



In 2015 the main task of the Research Coordinator's administration department was to implement the DBFZ's research and development strategy in relation to its participation in the EU framework research programme H2020. To do that end, the Research Coordinator attended the Horizon 2020 Energy Info Day 2015 in Brussels and organised two on-day in-house workshops on the subject of project submission in H2020. DBFZ staff were also supported in a submission for the Call WASTE-7 and in two submissions for European Training Networks of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. The DBFZ was awarded four European projects in 2015.

- Metharmo/Method harmonization and validation for the quantification of methane emissions from biogas plants (ERA-NET Bioenergy 2016–2018)
- REFAWood/Resource-efficient fuel additives for reducing ash related operational problems in waste wood combustion (ERA-NET Bioenergy 2016–2018)
- Record Biomap/Research Coordination for a Low-Cost Biomethane Production at Small and Medium Scale Applications (H2020 2016–2018)
- BIOSOL/Development and demonstration of a hybrid CSP-biomass gasification boiler system (ERANETMED 2016–2018)

RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

As well as preparing and organising the meeting of the DBFZ's Research Advisory Council in November 2015, work was focused on expanding the Council to include six new members. By resolution of the Research Advisory Council, new members of the DBFZ's Research Advisory Council with effect from 2016 will be Prof. Dr. Claudia Kemfert (German Institute for Economic Research), Maria Barbosa PhD (Wageningen UR), Prof. Dr. habil. Christina Dornack (Technical University of Dresden), Prof. Evelyne Thiffault (University of Laval), Prof. Grit Walther (RWTH Aachen) and Prof. Andrea Kruse (University of Hohenheim).

The Research Coordinator also supported the upgrading of the DBFZ library as part of the function's knowledge management role. As a result, the DBFZ is set to join the catalogue of BMEL research institutions. This will mean the organisation's numerous publications will gradually be made accessible worldwide through the joint catalogue.

GERMAN-FRENCH NETWORK WITH THE DFBEE



Office franco-allemand pour les énergies renouvelables
Deutsch-französisches Büro für erneuerbare Energien

In April 2015 the DBFZ joined the German-French Renewable Energy Bureau (DFBEE). The DFBEE is an information and networking platform relating to the energy transition for Germany and France. Within this framework, the Bureau regularly organises events such as conferences, seminars and webinars enabling decision-makers and industry experts to engage in interchange on current questions and challenges relating to renewable energy. The first DBFZ presentations were made during 2015. A first DBFZ publication to be circulated within the renewables network in France and Germany is currently being produced with the support of the Research Coordinator. Other publications will follow within the same framework.

DOCTORAL CANDIDATES' SEMINAR

The doctoral candidates' seminar is a key element of the DBFZ's doctoral programme. It provides a forum for detailed scientific discussion of the results of doctoral work, as well as for interchange between the doctoral candidates and their internal and external supervisors. The third doctoral candidates' seminar was held on March 12/13, 2015 at the DBFZ. On both days, the doctoral candidates presented their projects and interim results, and discussed them together with their supervisors from the DBFZ and the universities. As well as engaging in scientific discussions, the attendees were called upon to vote for the best presentation. The winner of the first prize – a 50 euro book token – was Mirjam Matthes from the DBFZ's Thermo-Chemical Conversion research department with her presentation on the subject of "Catalytic emissions reduction in small-scale furnaces".



Fig. 25 Doctoral candidates seminar at the DBFZ on March 12, 2015



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6

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME



The doctoral programme at the DBFZ has been in existence since September 2012, regulating the procedures and the rights and obligations of the doctoral candidates. The participants in the programme are assigned a mentor at the DBFZ, and are also able to take professional training courses and attend scientific conferences. They are required to publish the results of their research academically, to submit regular reports on the progress of their work, and to take part in an annual doctoral candidates' seminar. The programme also incorporates a four-week stay at a location abroad. Candidates should normally complete their doctorates after three years. It is possible to obtain a doctorate while working at DBFZ in cooperation with a university. Doctoral posts are funded from the DBFZ's budget (BMEL work programme), through third-party projects, or by grants. Eleven doctorates were completed at the DBFZ and in cooperation with the UFZ and the University of Rostock in 2015. A total of 38 doctorates are currently under supervision at the DBFZ, 12 of them in cooperation with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ (in a cooperation between the UFZ Department of Bioenergy – Systems Analysis and in the joint Microbiology of Anaerobic Systems working group “MicAS”). The DBFZ especially promotes and supports on-the-job continuing professional development. Sixteen members of staff acquired their doctorates while working for the organisation.

EXAMPLE DOCTORATE OF LEANDRO JANKE

Development of a biogas concept integrated to the Brazilian Sugarcane Industry

The sugar and bioethanol production in Brazil is responsible for the generation of large amounts organic waste. Part of the lignocellulosic materials are still underused in low efficiency cogeneration systems (i. e. bagasse) or burned and/or left to decay on fields (i. e. straw), while the remaining waste fractions (i. e. vinasse and filter cake) are directly applied on the sugarcane fields as fertilizers without any previous recovery of value-added products. The present research proposes to develop a biogas concept that integrate the anaerobic digestion process to the current sugar and bioethanol production in order to diversify the product portfolio



Fig. 26 Doctoral candidate Leandro Janke

and increase the energy balance of the sugarcane plants. The following steps are being carried out: a) evaluation of the organic waste mass and energy flows, b) determination of biochemical methane potential of the different organic waste, c) optimization of anaerobic digestion process in continuous reactors, and d) technological and economical evaluation of the biogas end use. The results from biochemical methane potential assays shows an average specific CH_4 production of 260, 281, 228 NmL/gVS , respectively, for filter cake, bagasse, straw, and 273 NmL/gCOD for vinasse. When these results are applied to an average size sugarcane plant in Brazil (4 million tons of cane per year), it would be possible to produce between 40,000–56,000 $\text{Nm}_3 \text{CH}_4$ per day during the sugarcane season by vinasse digestion, and complemented with the same daily CH_4 production during the sugarcane offseason through the digestion of filter cake combined with a fraction of the remaining lignocellulosic waste (1–6% of bagasse or straw). Currently, investigations on continuous reactors are being carried out in order to optimize a flexible digestion system that could be operated with different types of substrate along the sugarcane season and offseason.

Publications

Janke, L.; Leite, A.; Nikolausz, M.; Schmidt, T.; Liebetrau, J.; Nelles, M.; Stinner, W. (2015): Biogas Production from Sugarcane Waste: Assessment on Kinetic Challenges for Process Designing. In: International Journal of Molecular Sciences. Nr. 16. S. 20686–20703. doi: doi:10.3390/ijms160920685 – ISSN 1422-0067.

Janke, L.; Leite, A. F.; Nikolausz, M.; Radetski, C. M.; Nelles, M.; Stinner, W. (2016): Comparison of start-up strategies and process performance during semi-continuous anaerobic digestion of sugarcane filter cake co-digested with bagasse. In: Waste Management. Bd. 48. S. 199–208. doi: 10.1016/j.wasman.2015.11.007 – ISSN 0956-053X.



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Janke, L.; Leite, A.; Batista, K.; Weinrich, S.; Sträuber, H.; Nikolausz, M.; Nelles, M.; Stinner, W. (2016): Optimization of hydrolysis and volatile fatty acids production from sugarcane filter cake: Effects of urea supplementation and sodium hydroxide pretreatment. In: Bioresource Technology. Bd. 199. S. 235–244. doi: 10.1016/j.biortech.2015.07.117 – ISSN 0960-8524.

Janke, L.; Leite, A.; Batista, K.; Silva, W.; Nikolausz, M.; Nelles, M.; Stinner, W. (2016): Enhancing biogas production from vinasse in sugarcane biorefineries: Effects of urea and trace elements supplementation on process performance and stability. In: Bioresource Technology (in press).



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Table 1 List of current doctoral works at the DBFZ excluding cooperation partners UFZ/ University of Rostock, as per: February 2016

Name	Dissertation subject	Institution	Type of doctorate
Bindig, René	Cleaning of waste gases from small-scale biomass furnaces on new-style monolithic catalysts	University Leipzig	Doctorate (on-the-job)
Bloche-Daub, Karina	Regional added value from use of biomass as an energy source	University Leipzig	Doctorate (work programme)
Butt, Saad	High-temperature oxidation of pollutants on solid-state catalysts	University Leipzig	Doctorate (on-the-job)
Büchner, Daniel	Optimised control strategies for pellet/solar combination plants to enhance system efficiency while at the same time minimising environmental impact	Technical University of Dresden	Doctorate (on-the-job)
Dernbecher, Andrea	Method for modelling thermo-chemical biomass conversion in a CFD-based simulation	Technical University of Berlin	Doctorate (work programme)
Horschig, Thomas	Application of system dynamics for modelling of the German and European biomethane markets	University Leipzig	Doctorate (work programme)
Gröngroft, Arne	Optimisation of the conversion efficiency of bioethanol refineries	Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg	Doctorate (on-the-job)
Janke, Leandro	Biogas from residues of the sugar and ethanol industries in Brazil	University Rostock	Doctorate (grant)
Kirsten, Claudia	Contribution to optimising the pelletising behaviour of fermentation residues and hay from landscape conservation and their combinations	Technical University/ Mining Academy Freiberg	Doctorate (on-the-job)
Kretzschmar, Jörg	Development of an electrochemical sensor platform for biogas reactors	Technical University of Dresden	Doctorate (work programme)
Koch, Christian	Development of a new non-thermal plasma process for the highly efficient treatment of non-volatile species from the thermo-chemical conversion of biomass	University Leipzig	Doctorate (grant)

Name	Dissertation subject	Institution	Type of doctorate
König, Mario	Catalytically assisted reduction in gaseous and particulate emissions from wood burning in Chilean households	University of Leipzig/University of Talca	Doctorate (on-the-job)
Kröger, Michael	Thermo-chemical utilisation of algae focused on hydrothermal processes	University of Rostock	Doctorate (on-the-job)
Krüger, Dennis	Development and system integration of a micro-combined heat and power plant for solid biomass	Technical University of Chemnitz	Doctorate (on-the-job)
Mathhar Abdelmahdi, Bdour	Development of Combined heat, power and cooling system based on agricultural residues and biogenic waste	Universität Rostock	Doctorate (grant)
Matthes, Mirjam	Emissions reduction in small-scale biomass furnaces based on integrated catalysis	Leipzig College of Technology, Economics and Culture (HTWK)	Doctorate (on-the-job)
Matthischke, Steffi	Load flexibility of catalytic reactors based on the example of the methanisation of carbon oxides	Technical University of Clausthal	Doctorate (grant)
Mauky, Eric	On-demand biogas supply based on process control	Universität Rostock	Doctorate (on-the-job)
Müller, Liane	Improving the efficiency of the anaerobic degradation of nitrogen-rich compounds by the use of enzymes	Universität Rostock	Doctorate (on-the-job)
Rönsch, Cornelia	Development of a method for utilising chimney-sweeping trade data for energy reporting	University of Leipzig	Doctorate (work programme)
Seidler, Andreas	Trace substance analysis by time and location in biomass solid fuel furnaces by means of laser mass spectrometry	Universität Rostock	Doctorate (external)
Schlüter, Michael	Optimisation of the process of methanising carbon monoxide for application in the low temperature range	Universität Rostock	Doctorate (work programme)

7

PEOPLE AND MOMENTS



The focus of the DBFZ's press and public relations activities in 2015 was once again on communicating and publicising its numerous scientific research results. At more than 30 in-house events hosted in conjunction with cooperation partners, the DBFZ presented its work as a research institution and expanded its existing networks. A total of six events forming part of the Leipzig Scientific Forums series were held in 2015, with forums on biogas, solid biomass/miscanthus and biofuels being hosted at the DBFZ as well as at the cooperation partners' locations and at the "enertec/TerraTec" Central Germany Energy Fair. The forums again saw a significant increase in attendees in the past year, and the series will be repeated in its tried and proven form in 2016. An up-to-date listing of scheduled forum dates can be found at www.dbfz.de/fachgespraeche.

The sixth network conference of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy sponsored "Biomass Energy Use" programme was held in Leipzig on November 11/12, 2015. It attracted some 130 bioenergy specialists from industry and scientific research under the motto: "Bioenergy – more than a safe reserve!?". Differing assessments were made in response to the question of whether bioenergy will in future assume more than a reserve function within the renewable energy mix. The approaches presented for process optimisation, energy-efficient, flexible plants and particle separators did, however, provide some important impetus for the transition to renewables in power and heat supply.

According to the ifo Institute, Eastern Germany has enormous potential in the so-called clean tech fields. They account for a greater proportion of the economy as a whole than in Western Germany. Against that background, the fourth CIO Campus of the CLEANTECH INITIATIVE for Eastern Germany was held on December 10, 2015 in cooperation with the DBFZ. Under the motto: "Technical solutions for raw material- and energy-efficient biomass use", the event held at the 'Kubus' complex in Leipzig presented the latest approaches in the field of bioeconomy, practical experience reports from a commercial perspective, and possibilities for the promotion of innovative and resource-efficient technologies in companies. Some major sponsorship programmes were presented at the event (EU Horizon 2020, BMWi 'Inno-KOM-Ost' innovation promotion scheme and SMILE higher education institution business start-up network). Then various papers and project presentations provided a comprehensive insight into scientific and commercial practice.



Fig. 27 Participants in the Miscanthus Forum on December 2, 2015 at the DBFZ's fuel conditioning and combustion lab

Major events cast their shadows: We would like to take this early opportunity to publicise the DBFZ annual conference, which will be held on September 8/9, 2016 in the conference centre of the Leipziger Foren complex. Various sessions will cover current research topics relating to the use of biomass as an energy source. Side-events including the HTP forum on “Hydrothermal processes – Technologies for value creation through use as raw materials and as an energy source” will round off the event programme. Come along to meet interesting speakers and colleagues, and find out the status quo in bioenergy research. For details and registration visit the conference website at www.dbfz.de/jahrestagung.

VISITORS

Wide-ranging delegations from the scientific community, industry and the political sphere once again visited the DBFZ in 2015, touring its laboratories and test beds to find out all about the current status quo in biomass research. Among the highlights was the visit of the State of Saxony Minister of the Environment and Agriculture, Thomas Schmidt on September 11, 2015. In the summer we were able to welcome various state and federal deputies as well as Mr. Burkhard Jung, the Mayor of the City of Leipzig. The Mayor was impressed by the progress of both the scientific and infrastructural work being carried out at the DBFZ, and assured the institution of the full support of the city of Leipzig.



Fig. 28 Liane Flammigen (from the staff of federal parliament member Bettina Kudla) and federal parliament member Monika Lazar (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen party) at the DBFZ on July 9, 2015

In addition to many local and national visitor groups, a wide variety of different international visitors, including from Japan, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, the USA and Cuba, again visited the DBFZ in 2015, taking back with them many new ideas to spread around the world.

PUBLICATIONS

Three new editions of the “DBFZ Report” series were published in 2015. The thematic spectrum of the publications ranged from “Technical-economic research accompanying the Federal Competition ‘Bioenergy Regions’” (Report no. 23), through “Biomass for heat generation – Methods for quantifying fuel input” (Report no. 24) through to “Retrofit solution for the catalytic degradation of gaseous organic emissions from fireplaces” (Report no. 25). Additionally in 2015, two digital conference readers on the “Thermally treated biofuels” side-event (International Biomass Conference & Exhibition 2015 in Vienna) and on the occasion of the 6th Separators Forum “Particle separators in domestic furnaces” in Straubing were published. The in-house programme support for the BMWi “Biomass Energy Use” programme issued numerous new publications as part of its series, all of which are available free of charge at www.energetische-biomassenutzung.de/en/home.html.



Fig. 29 Mayor of Leipzig Burkhard Jung at the DBFZ's engine test bed on June 22, 2015

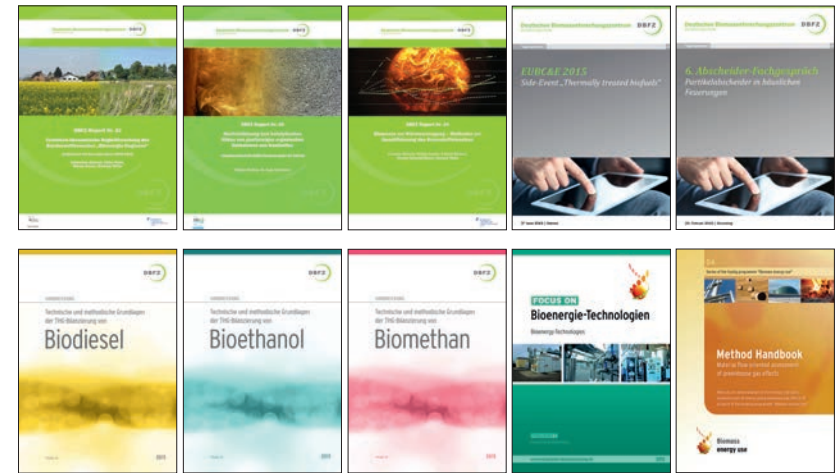


Fig. 30 New publications in 2015 (selection)

As part of the project sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) on “Recommendations for auditing greenhouse gas analyses of biofuels”, in late 2015 the DBFZ additionally compiled three brochures for biofuel auditors. The object of the recommendations is to collate information on raw material processing and biofuel production technologies and provide the information as an aid to auditors reviewing submitted greenhouse gas analyses. The three brochures are oriented to the major current national biofuel options – namely biodiesel, bioethanol and biomethane – and include a description of the technology, plausibility tables for typical input and output quantities of production plants, a specimen calculation for greenhouse gas analysis, as well as a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section relating to the auditing of greenhouse gas analyses.

Downloads

www.dbfz.de/referenzen-publikationen.html

www.energetische-biomassenutzung.de/de/downloads/veroeffentlichungen.html

www.dbfz.de/thg-handouts

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8

CONTRACT RESEARCH AND SCIENCE-BASED SERVICES

As an institution primarily conducting applied research, the DBFZ seeks to engage in close cooperation with project partners from industry, and offers an extensive portfolio of contract research and science-based services. They extend beyond the research focus areas presented here, and are targeted at policy-makers, industrial clients, non-profit organisations, consultants and supervisory bodies. The work is handled on an interdepartmental basis, so that the entire expertise of the DBFZ can be deployed comprehensively and efficiently for the following consulting and technical services.



Fig. 31. Applied bioenergy research at the DBFZ's fuel technical centre



8.1 POLICY ADVICE

By its very nature, research into the sustainable use of biomass as a material and energy source covers a wide range of different subject areas and levels of analysis. These must be regularly collated and processed in order to provide targeted assistance and support to decision-makers in government and industry. In this context, the DBFZ offers a wide range of consulting services for policy decision-makers. They include, for example, long-term monitoring of trends in bioenergy markets (comprising various projects relating to power generation from biomass and use of biofuel) and, on that basis, support in framing policy instruments (e.g. EEG, EEWärmeG, Biokraft-NachV, etc.). The services also offer targeted support to policy decision-makers through the compilation of commentaries (such as in connection with new legislation) and position papers (mainly concerning the current potential for use of biogenic waste and residues as energy source materials, the portfolio of waste wood plants, the use of heat, and the consequences of a change to the biofuel quota). In addition to collecting, evaluating and presenting data and information on market trends, available biomass potential or the characteristic variables of available and future bioenergy technologies (costs, technical characteristics or potential environmental impact), in past years the DBFZ has also developed tools for devising medium- and long-term bioenergy scenarios as a means of strategy development (in the framework of the Milestones 2030 research project) and provides scientific support to strategic projects (mobility and motor fuel strategies).



Fig. 32 Key work of the Policy Advice department in 2015

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

- Scientific support to strategic policy development and derivation of recommended action
- Commentaries on legislative procedures and support in their development
- Development and implementation of suitable monitoring systems under changing (research) policy framework conditions

Whereas policy advice seeks to cover the broadest possible range of issues in relation to biomass, the following consulting and other service offers are focused on selected topics and target groups.



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8.2 MARKET ANALYSES AND DATA PROVISION

As a result of the growing contribution of bioenergy in substituting fossil fuels, regional and international raw material markets are being continually expanded. With the parallel development of the bioeconomy sector and the already established players involved in use as a raw material source, the number of players on the market potentially competing for the limited available biomass is rising. Against the background of steadily rising demands in terms of efficient usage technologies for sustainable bioenergy production and use, a comprehensive, up-to-date data set is the strategic key to customised planning and to the ongoing development of policy framework conditions. This includes depiction of trends in markets, trading flows and prices. A further aim is also to collect and provide customised technological, economic and ecological data for the analysis and assessment of biomass production and supply concepts and technology options. A further possibility is to provide established and potential market players with transparent information on the continually rising quality and sustainability demands.

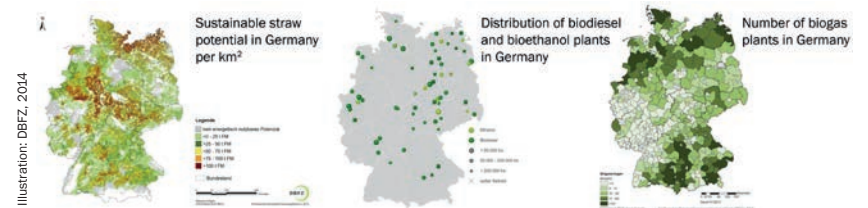
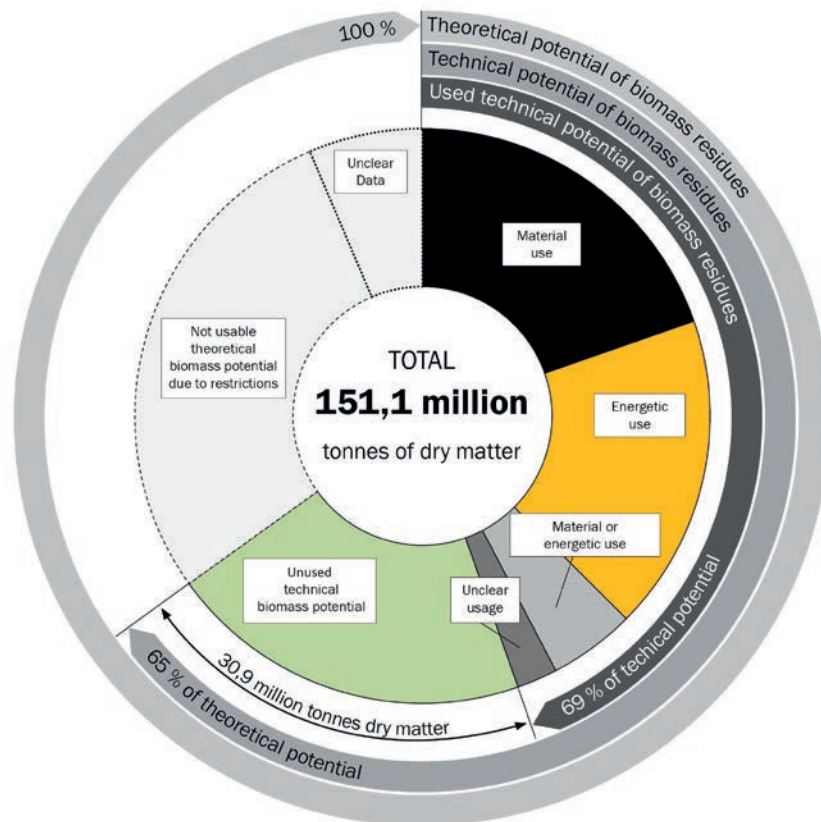


Fig. 33 Example views of the DBFZ data pool

Biomass potentials of residues and waste and their current use - Status quo in Germany

77 single biomasses were considered

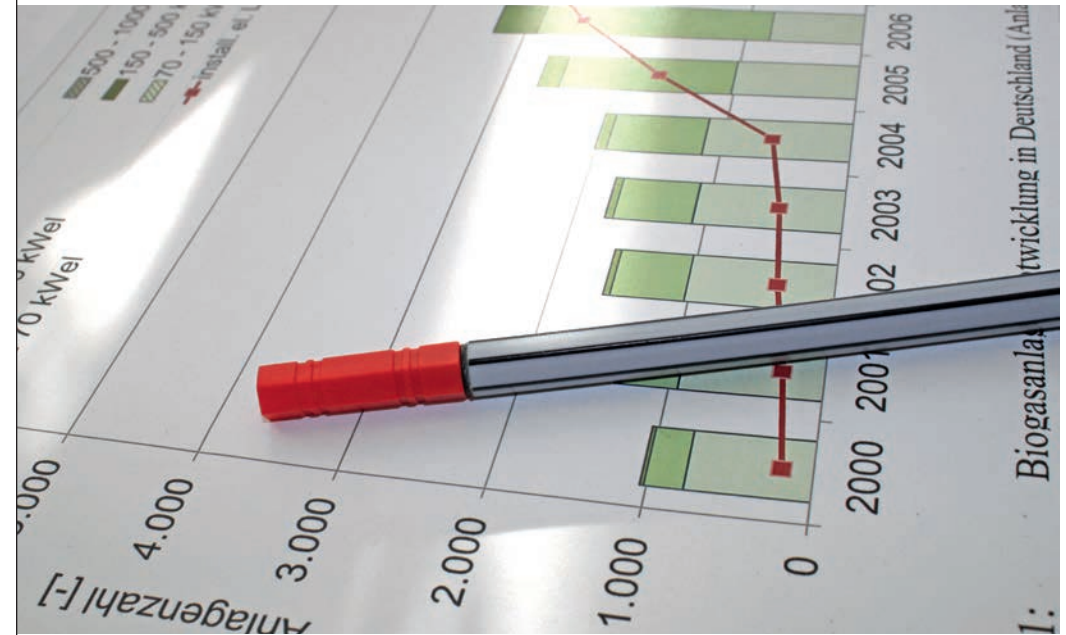
time reference not consistent



Source:
FNR-Forschungsprojekt, FKZ 22020114

Brosowski, A.; Adler, P.; Erdmann, G.; Stinner, W.; Thrän, D.; Mantau, U.; Blanke, C.; Mahro, B.; Hering, T.; Reinhold, G. (2015): Biomassepotenziale von Rest- und Abfallstoffen - Status Quo in Deutschland. Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR). Gülzow-Prüzen – ISBN 978-3-942147-29-3

Fig. 34 Biomass potentials of residues and waste and their current use



OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

- Determination of biomass potential and development of strategies for different players on biomass markets (material and energy use)
- Monitoring of market and technology trends, including systematic recording in databases; drafting of market and technology overview reports; forecasting future development trends
- Data provision on biomass/bioenergy trading: costs, prices and quantities
- Provision of structural data on the power, heat and fuel market as well as analysis of the marketing strategies of plant and grid operators (e.g. for on-demand energy supply)
- Analysis of biomass production and supply cost (cost-supply curves)

Depending on the question at hand, efficiency and sustainability analyses can be conducted in the course of economic, ecological and technical assessment and underpinned by sensitivity calculations and scenario analyses. This also applies to the evaluation of market and system integration concepts for flexible bioenergy supply.

8.3 TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The increasing competition for limited biomass resources, allied to the continually rising and changing demands in terms of economic and ecological performance capability, is driving a rise in pressure on bioenergy plant operators to innovate and optimise. The DBFZ offers market players a range of services for the analysis and optimisation of existing and future bioenergy technologies and concepts. Alongside appraisals of the technical, economic and ecological characteristics of bioenergy plants, the analyses offered provide a suitable basis for process and concept optimisation.

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

Technical evaluation

- Material and energy life cycle assessment
- Technical feasibility
- Technology screening and learning curves
- Characteristic data based evaluation (e.g. specific efficiencies, availabilities, quality level, classification by technical development status)

Economic evaluation

- Feasibility studies and assessment of usage/operating concepts including costs of new plant, plant upgrades or repurposing projects

- Cost and economic viability analyses for biogenic supply concepts (power, heat, fuels, chemical bioenergy sources)
- Analysis of value chains based on life cycle cost analyses (LCC, Social Life Cycle Assessment) and assessments as to the regional added value of the contribution of biomass usage concepts

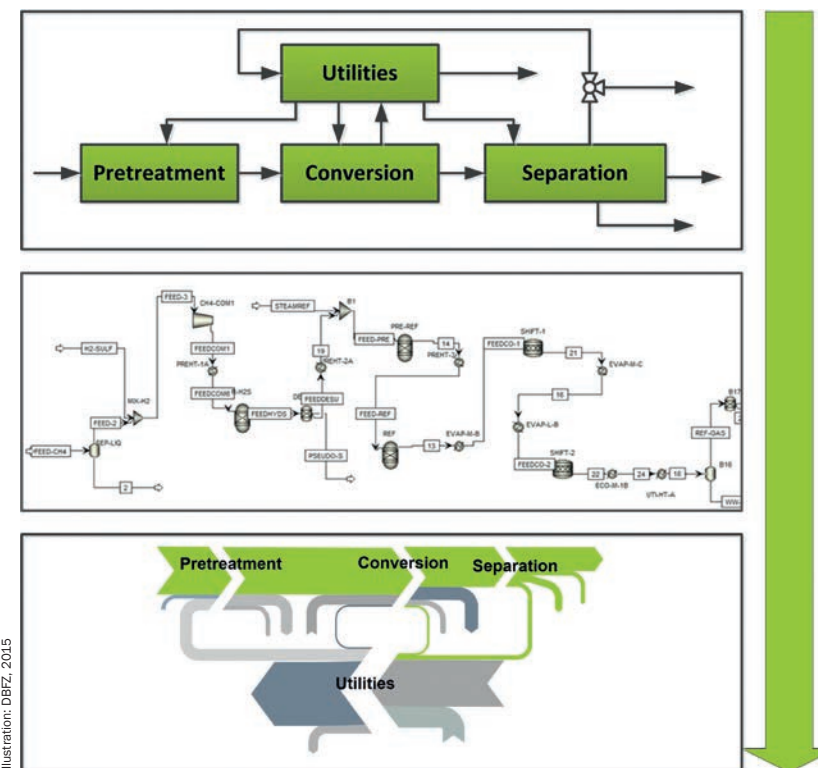


Illustration: DBFZ, 2015

Fig. 35 From the plant design concept, through process simulation, to technical assessment

Ecological assessment

- Life cycle assessment (LCA) referred to greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impact (including biological water balance, humus, eutrophication, acidification) as well as primary energy consumption
- Competing land use

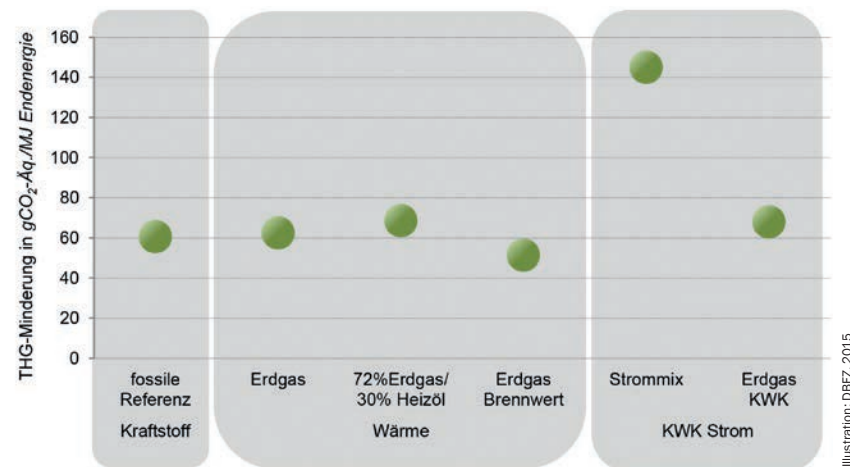


Fig. 36 Potential for greenhouse gas reduction through the use of biomethane in various options

8.4 CONCEPT AND PROCESS DEVELOPMENT AND OPTIMISATION

Concept and process development plays a key role in bioenergy research, as a means of meeting the challenges of changing political and social conditions.

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

- Development of new process concepts
- Testing and development of new technologies and process steps
- Optimisation of existing technologies, process steps and material flow management concepts
- Process modelling and simulation (static and dynamic), including flowchart simulation
- Kinetic measurements
- Development of control concepts
- Upscaling of processes

8.5 SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TO R&D PROJECTS

The DBFZ has been providing scientific support to the “Biomass Energy Use” programme sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy for the last eight years, functioning as an instrument of linkage and knowledge transfer. In the course of events such as scientific conferences and workshops, 104 projects and 262 project partners in the SME sector have to date been successfully interlinked. Other key aspects are the collation of the scientific output of the programme participants and transfer of the results to various interested parties (in the fields of policy-making, research and practical application). To this end, a series of scientific papers was developed specially for the grant aid programme, to date comprising 20 volumes and five specialist booklets published on various keynote topics (biogas, solid fuels, Milestones 2030, etc.). The programme service also supports projects scientifically in the process of harmonising methodology. In the course of intensive discussions with the programme participants, the measurement methodologies relating to biogas and fine dust were enhanced and a method handbook (in German and English) updated.

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

- Initiation of and scientific support to demo and pilot plants
- Accompanying scientific research on complex R&D projects
- Scientific advice and support to bioenergy initiatives of local authorities/regions



Fig. 37 Scientific research accompanying the BMWi-sponsored “Biomass Energy Use” programme

- Scientific support to research programmes by:
 - Interlinking between projects
 - Converging scientific output (press and public relations)
 - Enhancing visibility and presentation of programmes (enhancing the perception of all subsidiary projects as an integrated cluster)
- Coordination of events and compilation of publications
- Support to ongoing scientific and technical dialogue
- Coordination of harmonisation procedures

8.6 KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER



The DBFZ offers comprehensive expertise in the field of knowledge and technology transfer. As well as hosting the Leipzig forums on the subjects of biogas/solid biomass/miscanthus and biofuels, this also includes organising conferences on specific focus topics (e.g. hydrothermal processes, process metrology of biogas plants, computational fluid dynamics CFD, dust collectors in domestic furnaces). In addition, the DBFZ issues numerous publications (concluding reports, dissertations, guides, handbooks and collections of conference paper) providing an extensive portfolio of scientific reports which are made available free of charge on the Internet. The Bioenergy Innovation Centre manages and coordinates specific innovation processes as well as establishing and developing national and international networks. A wide range of cooperation projects in Germany and internationally provide continuous knowledge and technology transfer in the form of workshops, guides and employee training courses.

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

- Organisation and hosting of scientific and technical events (forums, conferences, workshops)
- Coordination of innovation processes
- Drafting of guidelines and handbooks
- Development and compilation of Web-based information platforms and Open Source portals
- Training and development courses

8.7 TECHNICAL-SCIENTIFIC SERVICES (SELECTION)

Complementing the aforementioned services, the DBFZ offers a special technical R&D infrastructure in the three research departments: Biochemical Conversion, Thermo-Chemical Conversion and Biorefineries. Technical-scientific services are offered to plant and machinery manufacturers, process developers, plant operators and other companies and institutions carrying out R&D. A detailed listing of the various technical facilities on the DBFZ site can be found at the end of this Annual Report starting on page 130.

BIOCHEMICAL CONVERSION DEPARTMENT

The Biochemical Conversion department researches the production of energy source materials from biomass using micro-organisms. Its focus is on technologies for biogas recovery and use. It also considers the efficient use of material flows and closed nutrient circles, as well as supporting the demonstration of new and improved plants and components. All activities are undertaken against the background of detailed evaluation of the market and of the technical state of the art, assured by participation in various monitoring projects. As part of its intensive cooperation with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, it also provides answers to wide-ranging questions relating to the properties of the micro-organisms involved and their population dynamics.



Services

- Process optimisation based on discontinuous and continuous fermentation experiments (5–500 l)
- Substrate and digestion residue analysis
- Microbiological monitoring of biogas plants
- Upscaling experiments on the research biogas plant
- Testing of sensors and technology components in the biogas process
- Emissions measurement, leak detection

THERMO-CHEMICAL CONVERSION DEPARTMENT

The Thermo-Chemical Conversion department handles a range of topics associated with the thermo-chemical conversion of biogenic solid fuels for the efficient, on-demand supply of heat and/or power as well as refrigeration. Research services can be offered all along the chain, from the fuel (preparation, conditioning, pelletisation), through the development and optimisation of furnaces and micro-CHP plants (including CFD assistance) also in conjunction with pollution control measures (catalysis and separation), through to the control of single plants and system networks (also with other heat sources, as well as power grid integration). Additionally, laboratory and field emission tests (measuring dust and CO, also accredited in accordance with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005) can be performed, as can separator tests to DIN spec 33999 and catalyst tests, complete with discussion of results and assignment to specific bioenergy markets.

Services

- Development, characterisation, pre-treatment and additive mixing of fuels
- Incineration experiments and comparative classification
- Separator measurement according to DIN 33999 (in future also accredited)
- Accredited dust and CO measurements
- Catalyst tests including discussion of results
- CFD simulation of thermodynamic processes



Fig. 38 The DBFZ offers a wide range of technical-scientific services

BIOREFINERIES DEPARTMENT

The core subjects of the Biorefineries department are processes for chemical bioenergy source materials and fuels. The focus is on efficient chains and innovative biorefinery concepts for synthesis gas and hydrothermal processes. This also includes implementation of process elements in the technical centre, incorporating laboratory analytics for comprehensive chemical-physical characterisation of biomasses and productions as well as test bed investigations of the motor behaviour of liquid and gaseous biofuels. Activities are rounded off by technical assessment, costing and ecological evaluation of different master concepts for biorefineries or a wide range of different biofuels. Investigations also cover the balancing and optimisation of processes, as well as concepts based on stationary and dynamic flowchart simulations. Another aim is to initiate demonstration projects and monitor them scientifically.

Services

- Pilot plant experiments relating to:
 - Hydrothermal carbonisation and liquefaction
 - Packed bed and dust gasification
 - Packed bed methanation
 - Separating processes
- Investigation of the behaviour of fuels and their emissions on engine test beds

ANALYTICAL LAB

The analytical lab investigates the chemical composition of liquid motor fuels and solid fuels, biogas substrates, by-products and residual products, ashes, filtration



Fig. 39 Work in the DBFZ analytics lab

dusts and waste water in order to assess the possibilities for use of the various biomasses. Based on current research projects, topics relating to glycerin analytics can also be covered. The lab is equipped with: a Karl Fischer headspace titrator; a bomb calorimeter; a Stabinger viscometer; ion chromatography; elementary analysis; EC/OC; ICP-OES; an ignition point analyser; a copper corrosion test; microwave digestion systems; and a freeze dryer. Since 2015, the lab additionally features a UV-VIS spectrometer, a refractometer, and two GC-MS units to identify and quantify organic components. Analysis is carried out in accordance with commonly applied standards and based on a problem-oriented methodology.

Services

- Elemental/inorganic analytics: Determination of primary and secondary components by means of ICP, sample and microwave decomposition
- Small-scale analyses: Water content, total ash, loss on ignition, dry matter, volatile components, mechanical parameters

- Incineration analyses: Elemental analysis, EC/OC analysis, incineration decomposition, determination of calorific value
- Aqueous solutions: pH value, conductivity, typical anions
- Filter analyses: Preparation and after-treatment of filters, weighing for fine dust measurements, preparation for weighing of rinse residues
- Fuel analytics/Organic analytics: Flash point according to Pensky-Martens, density, kinematic and dynamic viscosity, ester content, acid number, saponification number, iodine number, total contamination, oil content, sample extraction for organic parameters

The central point of contact for the Contract research and Science-based Services is the DBFZ Innovation Coordinator, Romann Glowacki.



Contact

Romann Glowacki

Phone: +49 (0)341 2434-464

E-Mail: romann.glowacki@dbfz.de

9

ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE DBFZ



The DBFZ Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum gemeinnützige GmbH (German Biomass Research Centre; DBFZ for short) was established in Berlin on February 28, 2008 with the aim to investigate and illuminate the complex issues relating to the supply and use of bioenergy. The following sections briefly set out its scientific mission, structure, controlling bodies, financing, personnel and activities on scientific bodies.



Fig. 40 The DBFZ main building at Torgauer Strasse 116

9.1 SCIENTIFIC MISSION

“Application-oriented research and development in the use of regrowable resources as an energy source and integrated base material within the bioeconomy, giving particular consideration to innovative technologies, economic impact and environmental concerns.”

(Scientific mission according to Articles of Association)

The DBFZ was established by the former German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) with the aim of establishing a central scientific research institution covering all the fields relevant to bioenergy, to bring together the findings of the highly diverse German research community in the sector. The scientific mission of the DBFZ is to support the efficient integration of biomass as a valuable resource for sustainable energy supply based on wide-ranging applied research. The mission incorporates technical, ecological, economic, social policy and energy business aspects all along the process chain, from production, through supply, to use. The DBFZ drives and supports the development of new processes, methodologies and concepts in close cooperation with industrial partners. It also maintains close links with public-sector research bodies in Germany in the agricultural, forestry and environmental sectors, as well as with European and global institutions. Working from this broad research base, the DBFZ is also tasked to devise scientifically sound decision-making aids for government policy-makers.



9.2 THE FOUR RESEARCH DEPARTMENTS

To provide the organisational framework for its wide-ranging scientific research activities, the DBFZ has established four closely cooperating research departments. While the Biochemical Conversion, Thermo-Chemical Conversion and Biorefineries departments primarily conduct applied research, the Bioenergy Systems department provides policy advice as well as compiling potential analyses, acceptance studies and scenarios for biomass use.

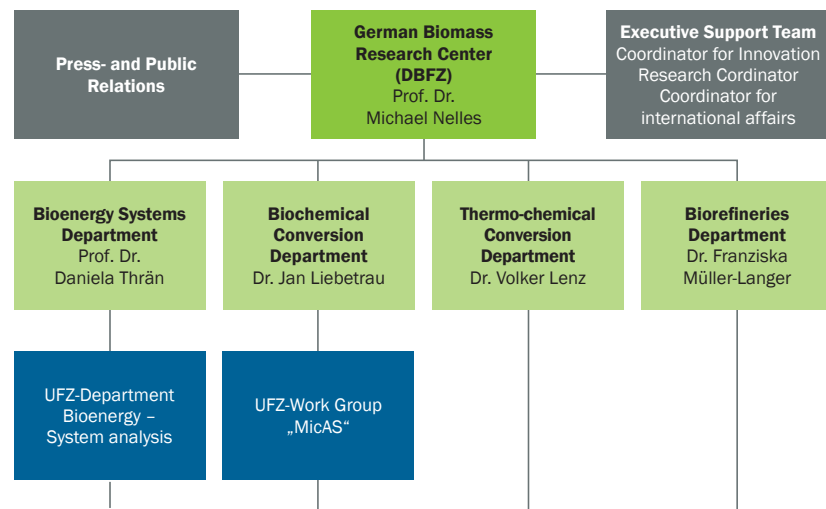


Fig. 41 The four research departments of the DBFZ including the administration departments

9.3 CONTROLLING BODIES: SUPERVISORY BOARD AND RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The DBFZ is a non-profit limited liability company (“gemeinnützige GmbH”) under German tax law. The sole shareholder in the DBFZ is the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). The international Research Advisory Council provides advice on the scientific work of the DBFZ. The Research Advisory Council comprises 10 national and eight international biomass scientists of high repute. The members of the Research Advisory Council are appointed by the Supervisory Board (Figure 42).

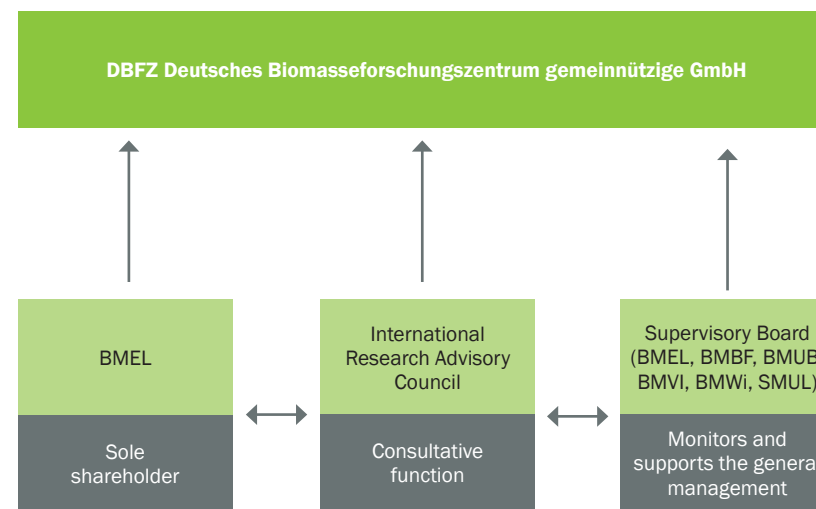


Fig. 42 The controlling bodies of the DBFZ

THE DBFZ SUPERVISORY BOARD

The key substantive and organisational decisions relating to the development of the federal research establishment are taken by the Supervisory Board, which is chaired by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). Other members are the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI), the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) and the Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture of the state of Saxony (SMUL).

Supervisory Board members:

(as per: 17. February 2016)

Bernt Farcke (Chairman)

Head of Department 52 "Sustainability, regrowable resources",
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

Deputy Director General Berthold Goeke (Deputy Chairman)

Head of Department "KI I Climate Protection Policy",
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)

Anita Domschke

Head of Department of Agriculture and Forestry,
Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture of the state of Saxony (SMUL)

Deputy Director General Dr. Dorothee Mühl

Head of Department III B Electric Power,
Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi)

Dr. Christoph Rövekamp

Head of Division – Division 722: Basic Energy Research,
Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

Birgitta Worrigen

Head of Department G2 – Sustainable Mobility, Energy, Logistics
Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI)

THE RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The international members of the Research Advisory Council advise the DBFZ on its scientific activities. This ensures that the institutionally funded research carried out by the DBFZ is scientifically sound and of maximum relevance to the future use of bioenergy as part of the energy system. The Research Advisory Council of the DBFZ was reconstituted in part in late 2015. It comprises ten national and eight international experts from the bioenergy sector.

Research Advisory Council members

(as per: 25 January 2016)

Member	Organisation	Location and country
Barbosa, PhD Maria	Microalgal Biotechnology AlgaePARC, Wageningen University	Wageningen (Netherlands)
Bauen, Dr. Ausilio	Imperial College London	London (England)
Bill, Prof. Dr. Ralf	University of Rostock – Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences	Rostock (Germany)
Chiaromonti, Prof. Dr. David (Chairman)	Renewable Energy Consortium R&D, University of Florence	Florence (Italy)
Christen, Prof. Dr. Olaf	Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg	Halle/Saale (Germany)
Dach, Prof. Dr. Jacek	Poznan University of Life Sciences	Posnan (Poland)

Member	Organisation	Location and country
Dong, Prof. Dr. Renjie	China Agricultural University (CAU)	Beijing (China)
Dornack, Prof. Dr. Christina	TU Dresden – Institute for Waste and Lifecycle Management	Dresden (Germany)
Hartmann, Dr. Hans	Technology and Promotion Centre at the Regrowable Resources Competence Centre (TFZ)	Straubing (Germany)
Hirth, Prof. Dr. Thomas	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT); University of Stuttgart – Faculty of Energy, Process Engineering and Biotech	Stuttgart (Germany)
Kemfert, Prof. Dr. Claudia	German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin)	Berlin (Germany)
Kruse, Prof. Dr. Andrea	University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart	Stuttgart (Germany)
Meyer, Prof. Dr. Bernd	Institute for Energy Process Engineering and Chemical Engineering, TU Mining Academy Freiberg	Freiberg (Germany)
Moreira, Dr. José Roberto	Universidade de São Paulo, Instituto de Eletrotécnica e Energia	São Paulo (Brazil)
Serrano, Prof. Dr. David	IMDEA Energy Institute	Madrid (Spain)
Teutsch, Prof. Dr. Georg	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research UFZ	Leipzig (Germany)
Thiffault, PhD Evelyne	University Laval Canada Québec	Québec (Canada)
Walther, Prof. Dr. Grit	RWTH Aachen – Faculty of Economic Sciences	Aachen (Germany)

9.4 FACTS AND FIGURES: FINANCING AND PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT

The DBFZ was established with the legal form of a “GmbH” (limited liability company) and as an accredited non-profit organisation (“gemeinnützige GmbH”). This provides it with the necessary flexibility and transparency to obtain public research funding and also to carry out research and consulting operations on behalf of third parties. The DBFZ is financed by institutional funding from the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) as well as by competitively procured project grants and revenue from acquired research contracts.

The BMEL provided the DBFZ with funding of approximately €9.9 million in 2015, of which some €3.4 million was allotted to capital investment. Despite the persisting uncertainty regarding bioenergy policy, more than €6.3 million in third-par-

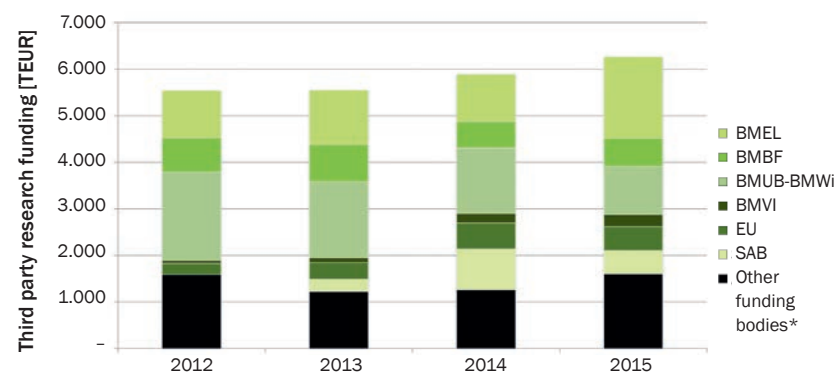


Fig. 43 Overview of third-party funding revenues from 2012 to 2015
(* Industrial contract research and services for private and public-sector clients)

ty funding was again procured in 2015. The proportion of total revenue from industrial contract research and services totalled approximately € 1.1 million. The project revenues of the BMEL stem from research programmes of the Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. (Regrowable Resources Agency; FNR) and the Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (Federal Office for Agriculture and Food; BLE). In 2015, the highest expenditure of the DBFZ was its personnel cost, which accounted for some 42% of total expenditure, followed by operating expenses (18%) and capital investments (40%). The high proportionate level of capital investment relates to the new building project (2015–2020).

PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT

The DBFZ employed 193 salaried staff on average in 2015. Including the scientific administration departments and the press and public relations staff, 158 people were employed in scientific/technical posts and 36 in administration. Figure 44 shows the shares of total workforce in the various departments in 2015. Some 100 members of DBFZ staff are aged from 28 to 37, making that the most heavily represented age group (Figure 45).

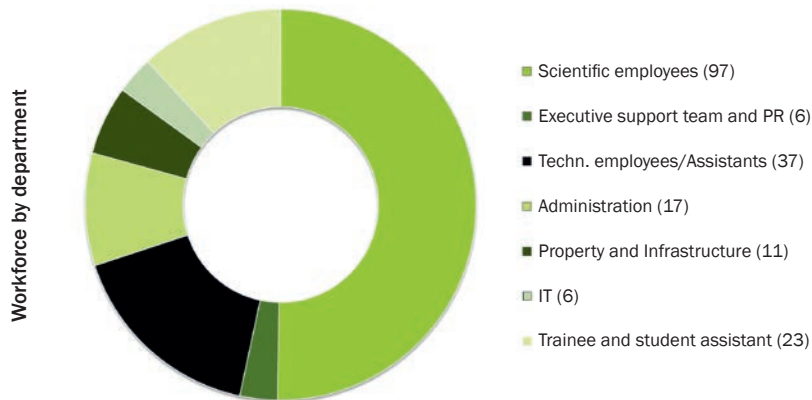


Fig. 44 Breakdown of the DBFZ workforce by department (as per: 31 December 2016)

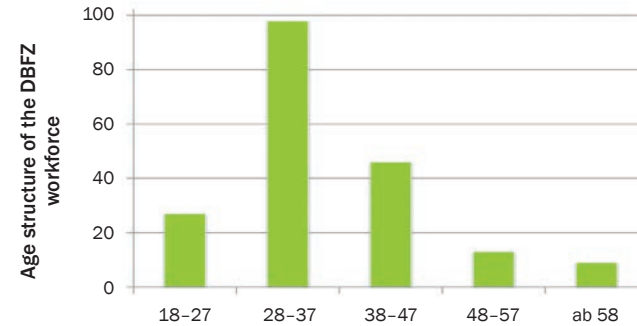


Fig. 45 Age structure of the DBFZ workforce

A wide range of work was supervised at the DBFZ once again in 2015. There was a substantial increase over the previous year in work on masters dissertations especially. A total of 43 intern and student study projects and 69 bachelors, masters and diploma dissertations were supervised. A total of 36 visiting scientists, foreign interns and grant-funded students also worked at the DBFZ in 2015 (Figure 46).

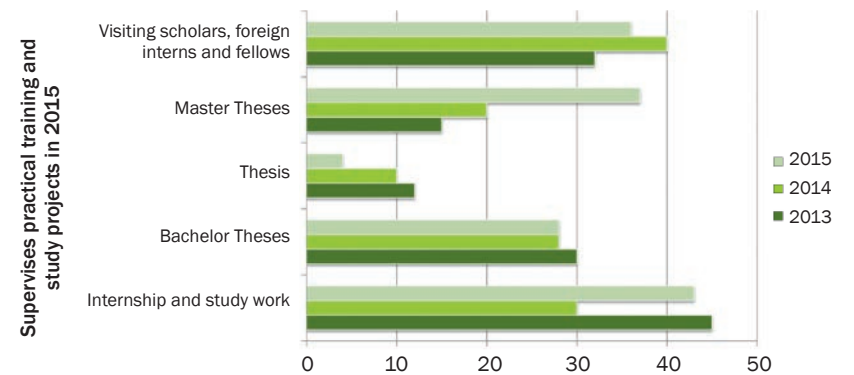


Fig. 46 Overview of study projects supervised at the DBFZ in 2015 compared to previous years (as per: February 2016)

9.5 REPRESENTATION ON SCIENTIFIC BODIES, ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES



The DBFZ seeks to maintain intensive knowledge transfer with other institutions and the scientific community at large. This is in keeping with its objectives of conducting applied research and utilising its results for practical benefit. To that end, DBFZ scientists are members of a wide variety of scientific bodies, advisory boards, working groups, networks and committees, as well as holding (visiting) professorships in Germany and abroad.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARDS/MANAGEMENT BOARDS/DIRECTORATES (SELECTION)

- aireg Aviation Initiative for Renewable Energy in Germany e. V.
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Stoffspezifische Abfallbehandlung, ASA e. V. (Working group on material-specific waste treatment)
- Association of German engineers (VDI), Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
- Bialystok Environmental Research Centre (in formation)
- BioFuelNet Canada Inc.
- BioEconomy e. V., BMBF Excellence Cluster Bioeconomy
- Bioeconomy Council of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Biomass to Power and Heat programme committee, Hochschule Zittau/Görlitz
- Biomass Use Competence Centre Schleswig-Holstein
- Bundesverband Bioenergie e. V. (BBE; German Federal Bioenergy Association)
- Chinese-German Centre for Environmental Technology and Knowledge Transfer (CETK) of the Province of Anhui, Hefei (China)
- Curatorium of Energy and Environmental Foundation Leipzig
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Abfallwirtschaft (DGAW)/German Society for Waste Management

- Energy Advisory Board of Saxony, state level
- Energy & Environment Network NEU e. V., Leipzig
- Energy Saxony initiative (Renewables Saxony)
- European Biomass Conference and Exhibition (EUBC&E) – Program Committee
- Export Initiative RETech “Recycling & Waste Management in Germany” of the German Federal Government (BMUB, BMWi, BMZ)
- Förderkreis Abgasnachbehandlungstechnologien für Dieselmotoren e. V. (FAD e. V.) (Association for the promotion of waste gas final treatment technologies for diesel motors)
- German-Chinese Centre in the Province of Anhui (China)
- Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research UFZ, Leipzig
- Institute of Non-Conventional Chemistry at the University of Leipzig
- Renewables Research Alliance (FVEE)
- Scientific Advisory Board of the European Biogas Association (EBA), Brussels (Belgium)
- Scientific Committee, “Conference on Sustainable Energy and Environmental Development – SEED 2016”, AGH University of Science and Technology, Crakow (Poland)
- Scientific Committee “International Scientific Conference and Workshops – Innovative Buildings” (InBuild), AGH University of Science and Technology, Crakow (Poland)
- Scientific Committee “6th International Renewable Energy Congress” (IREC 2015), Hammamet (Tunisia)
- Scientific Committee “International Conference on Sustainable Development”, Belgrade (Serbia)
- Scientific Committee, “European Biomass Conference and Exhibition” (EUBC&E)
- Scientific Committee, International Conference on Solid Waste 2015: Knowledge Transfer for Sustainable Resource Management (ICSWHK2015), Hong Kong (China)
- Scientific Committee, 5th International Conference on Solid Waste Management (IConSWM 2016), Bangalore (India)
- Scientific journal “Müll & Abfall” (Waste & Refuse)
- Scientific journal “Waste Management”
- Senate and research leadership group of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)



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Fig. 47 Prof. Dr. Daniela Thrän in the German Federal Government's Bioeconomy Council (2. from right)

- State Energy Council of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania – Research & teaching
- State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Economic-Scientific Strategy Council (future field Energy & Environment)
- Steering committee for 2nd stage of 1. BImSchV (Ordinance governing small and medium-sized furnaces under the Federal Immission Control Act) and head of Technology working group
- ZIM network – Applications and research network for radio wave technology (RWTec)

WORKING GROUPS/COMMITTEES

- Ad Hoc working group of the German Federal Environmental Agency (UBA) on 1. BImSchV (Ordinance governing small and medium-sized furnaces under the Federal Immission Control Act)
- Bioeconomy working group of the Structural Commission on Technology Assessment and Design, Saxony Academy of Sciences, at state level
- Cultural landscapes working group of the Landesheimatbund Sachsen-Anhalt e. V. (State of Saxony-Anhalt heritage association)
- German Environmental Aid Programme, “Blue Angel” working group
- European Biofuels Technology Platform (EBTP), WG1 European Technology
- European Biofuels Technology Platform (EBTP), WG4 Policy and Sustainability
- Think Tank Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft UFZ research community
- IEA Bioenergy, Task 39 “Commercializing Conventional & Advanced Liquid Biofuels from Biomass”
- IEA Bioenergy, Task 40 “Sustainable International Bioenergy Trade – Securing Supply and Demand”

- “Library Concepts” working group of the BMEL departmental research establishments
- Life-cycle assessment working group of the “Biomass Energy Use” programme
- “OpenAgrar” working group of the BMEL departmental research establishments
- Platform for Renewable Heating and Cooling (ETP-RHC)
- ProcessNet – Sustainable Production, Energy and Resources (SuPER), energy process engineering
- ProcessNet – Sustainable Production, Energy and Resources (SuPER), high-temperature engineering
- ProcessNet- Sustainable Production, Energy and Resources (SuPER), integrated material and energy use of biomass
- ProcessNet- Sustainable Production, Energy and Resources (SuPER), alternative fuels
- Senate working group on sustainability assessment (BMEL)
- Senate working group on regrowable resources (BMEL)

DIN/ISO STANDARDISATION COMMITTEES (SELECTION)

- DIN-FAM committee NA 062-06-32 AA “Requirements for liquid fuels”
- DIN: NA 172 “Standardisation committee: Basics of environmental protection (NAGUS)”
- DIN: NA 172-00-10 AA “Sustainability criteria for biomass”
- DIN: NA 062-05-82 AA “Solid biofuels”
- ISO committee 238, ISO/TC 255 “Solid Biofuels”
- ISO TC 238 WG7 + WG4
- ISO standardisation committee ISO/TC 255 Biogas
- Contribution to the working group on DIN 33999 “Dust collector testing”
- VDI 3461 Pollution control of the thermo-chemical gasification of biomass in cogeneration
- VDI 3475-3 Pollution control; plants for the mechanical and biological treatment of municipal waste
- VDI 3670 Waste gas purification – downstream dust reduction systems for small and medium small-scale furnaces for solid fuels

- VDI 4630 Digestion of organic substances – Substrate characterisation, sampling, material data acquisition, fermentation experiments
- VDI/DIN: Working group on the production of biocarbonisates, Kommission Reinhaltung der Luft (Clean Air Commission)

PROFESSORSHIPS

- Environmental Management in the Department of Economic Engineering, Ernst-Abbe-Hochschule (EAH), Jena
- Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Rostock
- Faculty of Energy and Environmental Sciences, Shenyang Aerospace University (China)
- Faculty of Environmental Technology and Biotechnology, University of Hefei (China)
- Institute of Renewable Energy, China Petroleum University Beijing (China)
- Institute for Infrastructure and Resource Management, Department of Bioenergy Systems, University of Leipzig

NETWORKS/ASSOCIATIONS/PLATFORMS (SELECTION)

- Association of German Engineers (VDI)
- Bioenergy network within the Energy and Environment Network (Netzwerk Energie und Umwelt e. V.)
- Biofuels Research Network (ForNeBIK)
- Combustion Institute (German section)
- DECHEMA, regrowable resources working group
- DECHEMA Society for Chemical Technology and Biotechnology
- Dena Biogaspartner (German Energy Agency)
- Energy Raw Materials Network (ERN)
- International Energy Agency (IEA)
- KUP network
- RAL-Bundesgütegemeinschaft Brennholz (Federal fuel wood quality control group)
- VGB PowerTech e. V.

10

TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT



The DBFZ has at its disposal a wide range of technical systems, test beds, laboratories and scientific tools. The following lists the available capacities.

RESEARCH BIOGAS PLANT

The research biogas plant extends the range of application-oriented research being carried out at the DBFZ to enhance process understanding and improve the efficiency of biogas production. The dimensioning of the fermenters allows experiments to be conducted on a technical scale, so ensuring good transferability of results into practice. The facility features two independent lines with identical capacity which can be operated as a single- or two-stage system, with optional hydrolysis. The first line is a wet fermenter with a main fermenter in the form of a stationary stirred tank with a central agitator. The second line can optionally be run with a main fermenter of identical design or with a plug-flow fermenter.



Fig. 48 The DBFZ's Research biogas plant

A post-digester with a gas storage cover collects the fermentation residues from both lines and routes them to the fermentation residue store. The biogas is used in a 75 kWel CHP (combined heat and power) plant to cover the facility's own energy demand. Surplus power can be fed into the DBFZ grid. For substrate supply, small amounts of self-produced silage can be stored on-site. To measure the gas production volumes precisely, the fermenters are fitted with permanent covers. Terminal units in the pipeline system and at the gas capture point permit sampling and the installation of measuring instruments.

BIOGAS LAB

The Biogas Lab is designed and equipped to simulate large-scale technical processes on a laboratory and semi-technical scale, complete with the corresponding analytics. Its aims are to optimise processes and to improve basic understanding of the individual processes involved in methane formation. It operates extensive (continuous and discontinuous) pilot plants with reaction volumes between 0.25 and 500 litres, as well as the research biogas plant. It investigates a wide variety of substrate mixes from agriculture, the waste management sector and industry on behalf of research and industrial partners. Alongside in-process analytics, the laboratory's trace analytics function is one of its key areas of activity. Resources available to the scientists include high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) as well as gas chromatographs (GCs) for analysis of interim products. The cooperation agreement with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ means microbiological analyses are also possible. As well as laboratory simulation and the associated stationary systems, resources also include various instruments for conducting field measurements. In combination, these resources the efficiency and emissions of large-scale plants to be assessed.

EMISSION MEASUREMENTS

The Biochemical conversion department has an extensive range of measuring instruments for the identification of diffuse methane leakage. The portfolio in-



Fig. 49 The DBFZ's biogas lab

cludes an imaging system capable of visualising methane losses in real time, a methane laser, as well as various hand-held instruments with which point sources of methane can be detected. There is also an extensive range of equipment for quantifying climate-related emissions, from both controlled and diffuse sources. Methodological resources include open and closed hoods. Optical remote measurement methods can also be employed to determine emissions based on laser spectrometry and dispersion models. The department also has at its disposal explosion-proof sensors and methods for the continuous monitoring of operational methane emissions from overpressure/underpressure safety systems.



Fig. 50 Emissions measurements in the field

ANALYTICAL LAB

The DBFZ's analytical lab investigates the chemical composition of liquid motor fuels and solid fuels, biogas substrates, by-products and residual products, ashes, filtration dusts and waste water in order to assess the possibilities for use of the various biomasses. Based on current research projects, topics relating to glycerin analytics can also be covered. The lab is equipped with: a Karl Fischer headspace titrator; a bomb calorimeter; a Stabinger viscometer; ion chromatography; elementary analysis; EC/OC; ICP-OES; an ignition point analyser; a copper corrosion test; microwave digestion systems; and a freeze dryer. Since 2015, the lab additionally features a UV-VIS spectrometer, a refractometer, and two GC-MS units to identify and quantify organic components. Analysis is carried out in accordance with commonly applied standards and based on a problem-oriented methodology.

FUEL TECHNICAL CENTRE

The DBFZ's fuel technical centre investigates and develops the key process steps to convert (aqueous) biomass flows into solid (e.g. biocoal), liquid (motor fuels) and gaseous (e.g. methane) bioenergy sources and base chemicals. A wide range of test stands are available to investigate the process steps of hydrothermal carbonisation (HTC) and hydrothermal liquefaction, biomass gasification, gas purification and catalytic synthesis. Experimental results are applied to complete and validate various plant simulations.

For the hydrothermal laboratory experiments, the DBFZ operates three batch reactors (2 x 500 ml, 1 x 10 l), a continuous tubular reactor and a two-stage continuous line. In addition to screening of a wide variety of different biomasses, extensive experiments are conducted on individual biomasses to determine the dependency of the reaction parameters on the yield and composition of the products. The liquid and solid (interim) products are chemically and fuel-technically analysed in the DBFZ's analytical lab.

The hydrothermal laboratory experiments are conducted as part of research projects and as service contract work.

Two laboratory gasifiers, a dust gasifier and a fixed bed gasifiers, as well as a reactor for adsorptive gas purification are available for investigation of the biomass gasification process. The dust gasifier converts biomass with particle diameters below 1 mm into a synthesis gas with low tar content at temperatures of up to 1200 °C and under atmospheric pressure with air and oxygen as the gasification agents. The fixed bed gasifier is rated for temperatures up to 1050 °C (heating up to 950 °C), pressures up to 20 bar and freely selectable mixtures of oxygen, nitrogen, air, water vapour and CO₂ as the gasification agents. It can be used to determine the characteristic values of the gasification reactions occurring in the various layers of the fixed bed. The unique features of this fixed-bed laboratory gasifier are the high variability of the gasification agent in combination with the maximum pressure 20 bar, the gravimetric fixed bed analysis during the gasification reaction, and the facility to take gas samples for analysis at three different height levels of the bed. The gas samples are transmitted to the analysers and conditioned at temperatures of approximately 450 °C, so that the tar components can be kept in the gaseous state and analysed.



Fig. 51 Fixed-bed gasifier at the DBFZ's fuel technical centre



Fig. 52 500 ml stirred batch reactor at the DBFZ's fuel technical centre

A reactor heatable up to 450 °C, into which sorbents (such as impregnated activated carbons, zinc and copper oxide) can be filled in three separate chambers, completes the laboratory gasifiers. A mobile small-scale pilot plant for the two-stage hot detarring of product gases from biomass gasification has also been developed, built and put into operation.

Four fixed-bed reactors are currently being used to research the catalytic conversion of synthesis gas into fuels and base chemicals such as methane (SNG) and alkenes. Three of them are tubular reactors, the fourth is a plate reactor. Two reactors are heated by a furnace, while the two others are tempered with thermal oil. Water vapour content and chemical toxicity (e.g. hydrogen sulphide) can be specified. It is also possible to return product gas (cooled) by means of recirculation pumps in order to control educt turnovers, product yields, and the reactor temperature. The aim is to investigate the dynamic reactor behaviour and the product gas composition in response to fluctuating synthesis gas qualities and volume flows (e.g. Power-to-Gas) as well as the catalyst deactivation. A unique feature is the broad temperature and pressure window ($T \leq 850$ °C, $p \leq 60$ bar) in which the reactors can be operated. This enables different reactor concepts and operating conditions to be compared directly.

Expertise in the production of fuels and base chemicals is being gradually built at the DBFZ. The aim is to investigate of different treatment technologies for substrates from upstream conversion steps as fermentation, hydrothermal processes or hydrotreatment in flexible plants

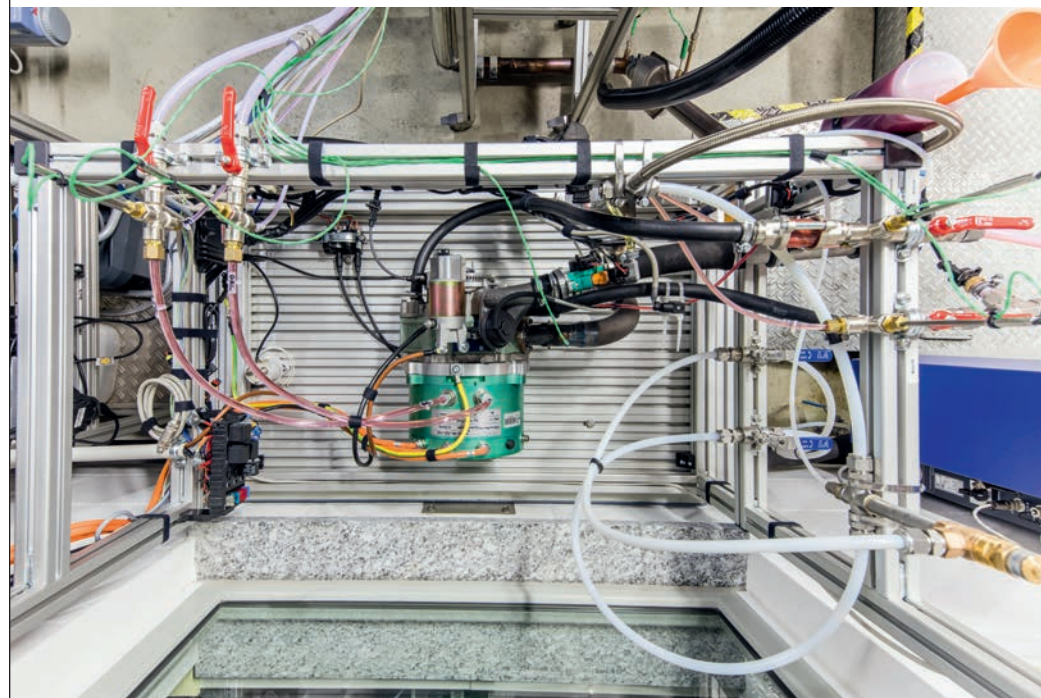


Fig. 53 Range-extender test rig on the DBFZ's engine test bed

ENGINE TEST BED

In response to the increasing complexity of demand placed on motor fuels, the DBFZ is setting up an engine test bed for research purposes. The primary aim is to test new-style renewables-based fuels in combustion engines. Specifically, the single-cylinder research engine is used to test thermodynamic implementation (such as power output and consumption), legally limited and unlimited raw emissions, engine oil dilution and the application of exhaust gas cleaning systems in terms of the fuel. A variety of different measurement and analytical techniques are used. Exhaust emissions can be measured by FTIR spectrometer, smoke meter, PMD, FID, lambda meter and NDIR, among other methods. Further analytical facilities are available in conjunction with the in-house analytical lab. The combustion process is analysed by high-pressure indexing, with online visualisation. Moreover, a freely programmable automation system enables typical engine properties such as speed, load, rail pressure, charge air pressure, engine oil temperature and coolant temperature to be freely configured and continuously recorded

(up to 100 Hz). The modular design of the test bed also enables modifications to combustion engines to be implemented quickly and autonomously.

With a view to the steady progression of electromobility in Germany, technical potential can be analysed on a specially built test bed for range-extender modules (range extenders extend the range of plug-in electric vehicles while driving). Regeneratively powered electric vehicles combined with regeneratively powered range-extender modules can help to dispel prejudices against electromobility and at the same time open up opportunities for new-style fuels which are only available regionally in small quantities. The installed test bed can be applied to a variety of set-ups thanks to its modular design.

TECHNICAL CENTRE WITH 10 COMBUSTION TEST BEDS

In the combustion lab the DBFZ conducts experiments on raw or pre-conditioned biomass by means of thermo-chemical conversion. It is also able to carry out detailed analysis of exhaust gas emissions and particulate formation processes. The combustion lab is equipped with a full-flow dilution tunnel test bed, two separator test beds with variable volumetric flow, a tiled stove test bed, a catalytic converter development stand, 15 exhaust analysers (including FTIR, SMPS, exposition chamber) and seven dust measurement devices as well as eight boiler vessels on various different experimental setups.

FUEL CONDITIONING AND COMBUSTION LAB

Based on its extensive and widely respected experience and know-how, the DBFZ's fuel conditioning and combustion lab together with its analytical lab conduct a wide variety of tests and experiments in close cooperation with leading scientific and industrial partners. Fuel conditioning experiments can be performed on a wide variety of different fuels. A warehouse facility covering an area of over 800 m² currently holds more than 150 different fuel variants. The fuel conditioning and combustion lab has dedicated conditioning systems and a new 30 kW ring-matrix press with which it conducts experiments in the production of new-style biogenic solid fuels,

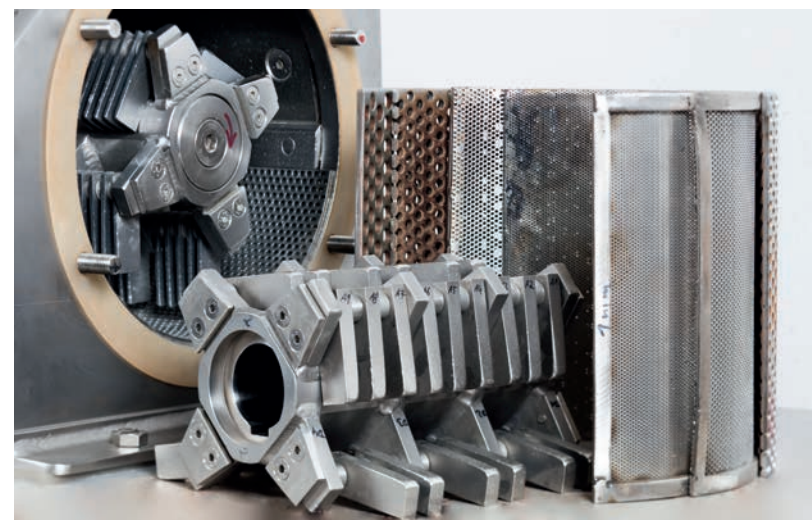
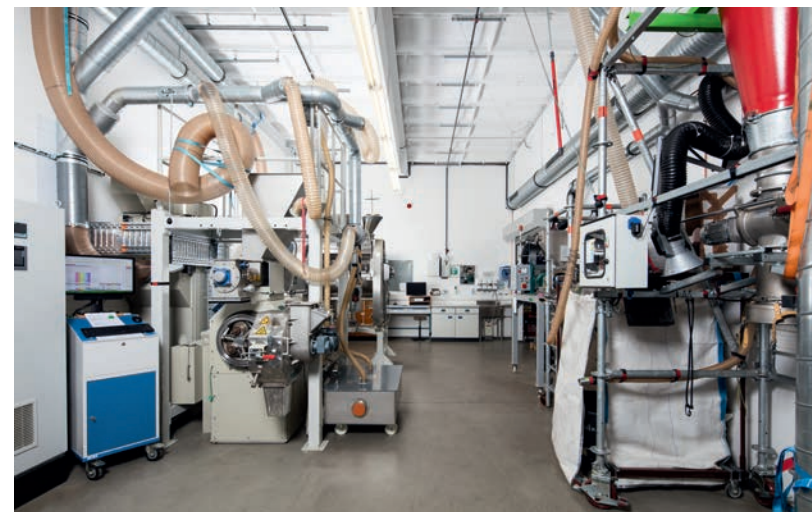


Fig. 54 DBFZ fuel conditioning and combustion lab/compacting technique

particularly including fuel mixes. The pellets produced can be fully characterised in accordance with European standards governing solid biofuels.

DATABASES

The “Systemic contribution of biomass” research focus area collects wide-ranging data to monitor trends on the bioenergy market and systematically extends its accumulated data set. The data includes technical and economic information, details relating to licensing law and information of relevance to stakeholders, such as for the German bioenergy plant portfolio or on market trends in biogenic fuels. In many cases time-series charts are provided. Standardised data management tools and geographic information systems (GIS) are used for data evaluation and retention. The available data relating to the bioenergy plant portfolio in Germany and to international fuel markets and trading flows offers private and public-sector decision-makers an outstanding means of considering strategic policy issues and making market-related decisions on the foundation of soundly-based facts. They are also enabled to assess market dynamics against the background of changing framework conditions and predict future development trends.

ASSESSMENT METHODS AND SCENARIOS

The limited biomass potential must be utilised efficiently to safeguard the long-term future of the energy system. In view of the many and varied properties and usage options of biomass, methods and tools are required to manage the sectoral deployment of biomass in accordance with social needs (such as for climate protection or to deliver system services). To that end, the “Systemic contribution of biomass” research focus area devises and develops methods for assessing the technical, ecological, social and economic effects of biomass use for energy production. The development of dynamic scenarios offers the possibility to assign the results within various contexts. In conjunction with the DBFZ’s database of current bioenergy technologies, they can be deployed to support decision-makers in the political and business spheres.

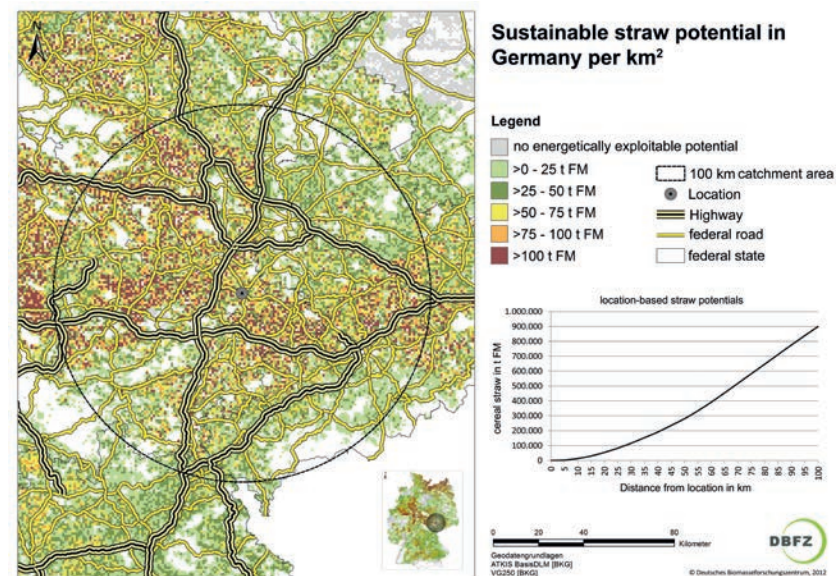


Fig. 55 Presentation of sustainable straw potential in Germany

POTENTIAL ANALYSES

In order to assess the availability of sustainable raw materials and residues, the DBFZ is developing a far-reaching model which can be used to calculate regional, national and international biomass potential for energy production. Tools employed include geographic information systems (GIS) to localise biomass potential. Scenarios are then developed in conjunction with the latest statistics, official base geo-data and freely available geo-data. Alongside freely accessible information, a joint project enables a large number of individual topics to be covered specific to the needs of the client concerned.

Further information: www.dbfz.de/biomassepotenziale

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WORK AND PROJECT RESULTS

The most important publications from 2015 are listed to show the current working areas of the DBFZ. The language of the title reflects the language of the publication/project.



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Projects (Selection)

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

Aquatische Makrophyten – ökologisch und ökonomisch optimierte Nutzung – Teilvorhaben 3: Konservierung aquatischer Makrophyten zur ganzjährigen Nutzung für die anaerobe Vergärung. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.10.2014–30.09.2017 (FKZ: 22401914)

AUFWIND – Algenproduktion und Umwandlung in Flugzeugtreibstoffe: Wirtschaftlichkeit, Nachhaltigkeit, Demonstration; Teilvorhaben 3: Systemanalyse, Ökonomie und Ökologie – Technische und ökonomische Gesamtbewertung. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.06.2013–31.08.2016 (FKZ: 22408812)

Betriebsbedingte Emissionen an Biogasanlagen. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.02.2015–31.01.2018 (FKZ: 22020313)

Biogas-Messprogramm III – Faktoren für einen effizienten Betrieb von Biogasanlagen – TV 1: Energiebilanzierung, Flexibilisierung, Ökonomie. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.12.2015–30.11.2017 (FKZ: 22403515)

BioPOT – Biomassepotenziale und deren Nutzung unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Rest- und Abfallstoffe – Status quo in Deutschland. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.10.2014–31.03.2015 (FKZ: 22020114)

BIOGAS-SANITATION – Einfluss der landwirtschaftlichen Biogaserzeugung auf die Qualität von Gärresten: Bewertung des Einflusses des

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Einsatz der Hydrothermalen Carbonisierung (HTC) für die nachhaltige Behandlung und Verwertung von Fraktionen des Sanitärsektors im Sinne eines Biochar/Swechar-Konzeptes. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung, 01.10.2013–30.04.2017 (FKZ: 2815600211)

eMikroBGAA – Effiziente Mikro-Biogasaufbereitung; Teilvorhaben 2: Potenzialabschätzung und betriebswirtschaftliche Bewertung für MikroBGAA. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.11.2015–31.10.2017 (FKZ: 22401615)

Energieerzeugung aus aquatischen Biomassen am Beispiel der Co-Kultivierung von Wasserlinsen und Cyanobakterien; Teilvorhaben 2: Konservierung und Konversion der aquatischen Biomassen zu Biogas. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.08.2014–31.07.2017 (FKZ: 22401514)

Entwicklung und Validierung neuer Online-Messmethoden zur Bewertung und Optimierung der anaeroben Fermentation in Biogasanlagen; Teilvorhaben 2. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 15.03.2013–15.09.2015 (FKZ: 22002213)

Entwicklung von Empfehlungen zur Vorbereitung der wiederkehrenden Emissionsprüfungen nach 1. BImSchV. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.08.2015–31.07.2016 (FKZ: 22002015)

Entwicklung der BM-Verstromung bei Fortschreibung der aktuellen EEG-Vergütung. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.09.2015–30.11.2015 (FKZ: 22400815)

Entwicklung von Handreichungen zur Überprüfung von THG-Bilanzen von Biokraftstoffen (Handout). Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR), 01.12.2014–30.09.2015 (FKZ: 22031014)

Flexible Steuerung der Biogasproduktion mittels bioinformatischer Populationsanalyse. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.02.2015–31.01.2018 (FKZ: 22009114)

Klein aber effizient – Kosten- und energieeffiziente Biomethanproduktion (ERANET Bioenergy – SE.Biomethan). Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.02.2013–30.04.2016 (FKZ: 22028412)

KOMBIOPT – Energiemanagementsystem zur kombinierten Nutzung erneuerbarer Energien. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.02.2015–31.07.2017 (FKZ: 22403113)

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Potenziale zur Steigerung der Leistungsfähigkeit von Biogasanlagen – Energetische Effizienz von Repoweringmaßnahmen. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.01.2014–30.04.2016 (FKZ: 22400912)

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Spurenelemente durch Energiepflanzen – Stoffströme und Handlungsempfehlungen für eine optimierte Prozessbiologie in Biogasanlagen. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.12.2014–30.11.2017 (FKZ: 22019114)

Technisch-ökonomische Begleitforschung „Bioenergie-Regionen 2.0“. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.03.2013–31.03.2016 (FKZ: 22020412)

Untersuchung und Screening erweiterter Qualitätsparameter zur Verbesserung der emissionsrelevanten Holzpelletqualität in der Praxis. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.03.2015–30.09.2015 (FKZ: 22017914)

Überwachung von Biogasanlagen mittels der Analyse von Verhältnissen stabiler Isotope; Teilvorhaben 3: Referenzversuche zur Verifizierung des Isotopenuntersuchungskonzeptes und Entwicklung einer Zustandsklassifizierung. Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., 01.09.2014–31.08.2017 (FKZ: 22013113)

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