Acronym: EU-AGRO-BIOGAS

Full title: European Biogas Initiative to improve the yield of agricultural biogas plants
(Small Targeted Research Project)

Contract: No: 019884

Website: www.eu-agrobiogas.net

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EU contribution: 3,9 MEuro

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Institute of Grassland & Environmental Research, GB

Animal Science Group, NL

Plant Research International, NL

Association for Technology and Structures in Agriculture, DE

EC Baltic Renewable Energy Centre, PL

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The use of renewable energies is considered an integral part of current and future energy concepts. Within these concepts, biogas production plays an important role. Biogas itself may be used for a number of purposes, such as electricity production or feeding into gas grid. Biogas production in the European Union is increasing, but is still not sufficiently efficient. Therefore, EU-AGRO-BIOGAS identifies the most important factors responsible for the current lack of efficiency in biogas plants and elaborates on solutions:

- Biogas must be produced from energy crops grown in versatile and sustainable crop rotations and from organic agricultural residues. Food-feed competition must be avoided. The view must be on maximising biogas yield from sustainable biomass production and making best use of organic by-products from other processes.
- The project establishes an online EU database containing information on the substrates used for biogas productions.
- An early warning system is developed which will alert biogas producers to problems in the fermentation process at an early stage where trouble shooting is easily possible.
- On farm demonstration activities are evaluated: economic assessment with the computer based tool ECO-GAS and ecological assessment through life cycle analysis.

EU-AGRO-BIOGAS brings together an interdisciplinary team of leading biogas experts from all over Europe. Leading universities are cooperating with key industry players in order to work towards a sustainable Europe. The project is co-ordinated by the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna.