

Universiteit Utrecht Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development

**Moving local biomass sources into global markets**

Ric Hoefnagels  
Seminar Series  
29 January 2015

Universiteit Utrecht

### Agenda

- Role of bioenergy in the EU
- Overcoming geographic challenges
- International trade of wood pellets
- Cost and greenhouse gas emissions
- Options for improved design

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development

Universiteit Utrecht

### Primary biomass demand in the EU27, meeting the 20% RES target in 2020

- Green-X scenario projection (TU Wien)
- 47 % increase in primary biomass demand
- Heat will remain largest (44 % in 2020)
- Growing extra-EU imports, but share remains modest (6% in 2020, 18 Mt wood pellets).

Hoefnagels, Resch et al., 2014

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development

Universiteit Utrecht

### Overcoming geographic challenges: energy demand is often remote from areas of biomass supply

Global land suitability for herbaceous and woody lignocellulosic plants

Earth at Night (NASA)

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development

Universiteit Utrecht

### When processed, solid biomass becomes 'tradable'

Wood pellet production in the US for export to Europe

RWE website: Georgia Biomass (GA, USA)

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development

Universiteit Utrecht

### Global wood pellet production and consumption

Year	Production (million tonnes)	Consumption (million tonnes)
2000	1.7	0
2001	2.2	0
2002	2.6	0
2003	3.0	0
2004	4.0	0
2005	5.2	0
2006	7.6	0
2007	9.7	0
2008	11.7	0
2009	14.5	0
2010	15.7	0
2011	18.3	0
2012	22.4	0
2013f	24.5	12.5

2013f breakdown: EU28 (19.5), USA (6.8), ROW (3.8)

R.G. Watkins, 2014 (Source: REN21, Hawkins Wright)

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development



Universiteit Utrecht

## GHG savings for heat and electricity

- In general above 60% (JRC)
- Could exceed 70% if efficient conversion systems are used (e.g. co-firing or CHP)
- Or over 80% if substitution of coal is assumed (Sikkema et al.)

Sikkema et al. 2010

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development

Universiteit Utrecht

## Advanced supply chain design

- Locate preprocessing early in the supply chain
- Improving energy density (e.g. torrefied pellets, pyrolysis oil)
- Avoid transport of water
- Avoid transport minerals (nutrients)
- Meeting feedstock specifications
- Reducing downstream processing

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development

Universiteit Utrecht

## Advanced supply chain design: dandelion's hub and spoke system

- Production of refinery intermediates at decentralized locations (within production areas)
- Transport in densified form to large scale refineries to produce chemicals and energy (E/H/T)
- Making use of existing infrastructure when possible

Lane, Biofuels Digest (10/24/2012)

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development

Universiteit Utrecht

## The Netherlands, a biomass hub?

Cost-supply of solid biomass in the Netherlands in 2020 (SNP)

Throughput solid biomass in Rotterdam

Hoefnagels et al., 2013 (Port of Rotterdam)

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development

Universiteit Utrecht

## Ongoing research

**BioLogikNL** (TKI-BBE)  
Evaluation of existing and design of optimal (cost, GHG emissions) international biomass feedstock supply chains.  
UU, TU Delft, 12 industrial partners

**Renewable Jet Fuel Supply Chain Development and Flight Operations (RENJET)** (Climate-KIC)  

- To develop and enable regional renewable jet fuel supply chains, and to create innovative financial business models to increase and sustain renewable jet fuel off-take.

 UU, Imperial College, SkyNRG, KLM, Schiphol

**Macro-economic outlook of sustainable energy and biorenewables innovations (MEV-11)** (BE-Basic)  

- To assess the effects of large scale deployment of biomass for energy (E, H, T) and non-energy purposes (chemicals) in the Netherlands

 UU, LEI-WUR, industrial partners (Corbion, DSM, Essent)

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development

Universiteit Utrecht

## Conclusions

- The shift from traditional to modern uses of bioenergy increases the demand outside production areas
- Its raw form, biomass is difficult to mobilize, especially lignocellulosic residues
- Co-firing and conversion projects have provided experience with large scale international feedstock supply systems
- Advanced feedstock supply can further improve the economic and environmental viability of bioenergy systems

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development


 Universiteit Utrecht

**Thank you for your attention!**

**References**

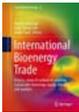
Giuntoli, J., Agostini, A., Edwards, R., Marelli, L. (2014). Solid and gaseous bioenergy pathways: input values and GHG emissions. Report EUR 26696 EN

Hoefnagels, R., Resch, G., Junginger, M., & Faaij, A. (2014). International and domestic uses of solid biofuels under different renewable energy support scenarios in the European Union. *Applied Energy*, 131, 139-157

Hoefnagels, Ric, et al. "Lignocellulosic feedstock supply systems with intermodal and overseas transportation." *Biofuels, Bioproducts and Biorefining* (2014).

Junginger, M., Goh, C. S., & Faaij, A. (Eds.). (2014). *International Bioenergy Trade: History, status & outlook on securing sustainable bioenergy supply, demand and markets*. Springer.

Sikkema, R., Junginger, M., Pichler, W., Hayes, S., & Faaij, A. P. C. (2010). The international logistics of wood pellets for heating and power production in Europe: Costs, energy-input and greenhouse gas balances of pellet consumption in Italy, Sweden and the Netherlands. *Biofuels, Bioproducts and Biorefining*, 4(2), 132-153.



**Ric Hoefnagels**  
 Email: r.hoefnagels@uu.nl  
 Phone: +31-30-2537645  
 Copernicus Institute – Utrecht  
 University  
 Heidelberglaan 2,  
 3584 CS, Utrecht, the Netherlands

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development


 Universiteit Utrecht

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development