



# **1. Minisymposium für Nachwachsende Rohstoffe und Erneuerbare Energien**

**Minisymposium for renewable Resources and Energy**

**BIFFL-Saal (HS XXI), Emil-Perels-Haus, Erdgeschoss  
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## **Programm**

**und**

## **Zusammenfassungen (Abstracts in English)**

## Forum Biogas Austria: Network from natural resources to application

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In Austria, a new law on green electricity production was issued on 2003-01-01. It forms the legal frame for a forward-looking biogas production from agrarian biomass. A dynamic development in the area of agricultural biogas production can be observed. More than 180 new biogas plants will be built in the near future and start operation until 2006-06-30. The performance of the new biogas plants will range between 70 kW<sub>el.</sub> and 1 MW<sub>el.</sub> Agricultural biogas plants must meet technological and security standards. The building of biogas plants must be cost efficient, an economic operation must be possible. Operators of existing or future biogas plants, planners and authorities need clear, transparent, and binding quality standards for the whole biogas process starting from the production of energy crops and ending at the stage of biogas utilisation.

From the digestion of animal manures, energy crops and organic wastes, about 6000 biogas plants could be operated in Austria. This would result in a CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction of more than 5 mio. t and in the creation of more than 10000 new jobs in rural areas. It is essential to rapidly disseminate new research results and to focus future research activities. Only then Austria can hold and further develop its leading role in biogas production and technology.

Quality standards are needed for the whole biogas process:

- production of energy crops and animal manures
- biogas production and biogas processing
- management and operation of agricultural biogas plants
- substance and energy flow
- investment costs
- work requirement
- economic efficiency.

Biogas plant and process analysis and technology transfer to biogas plant operators require all partners that work in the biogas process chain to co-ordinate their work and to co-operate. Multi-disciplinary research shall be carried out. Information, know how and technology shall be rapidly disseminated to farmers, planners, to the extension service, and to authorities. Biogas production from agrarian biomass shall be promoted and a better use shall be made of the huge potentials. The "Forum Biogas Austria" is a centre of economic, technological and research excellence with the aim to optimise biogas production from agrarian biomass. It comprises horizontal and vertical co-operation between partners from research, extension service, authorities, planners, biogas plant operators, and companies that work in the field of biogas production.