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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Biomass and Energetics 2011

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Bio-Fuels

Agriculture in the Economy

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Report Highlights:

The Czech National Action Plan for Energy from Renewable Resources sets the 2020 target for gross consumption of energy originating from renewables at 13.5 percent. Biomass is one of the most viable options in the energy mix.

Executive Summary:

General Information:

On November 29 the Czech Biomass Association (CZ Biom) organized a conference on the Czech Republic's energy market and policy. Conference organizers presented practical information on biomass use as well as engaged the audience on energy policy. For the policy discussion, the foundation for the state's energy strategy - the National Action Plan for Energy from Renewable Resources and the recent Act on Support of Renewable Resources, as well as the strategy's future direction as being defined in the National Action Plan on Biomass 2012-2020 proposal currently in preparation, garnered attention.

Conference speakers agreed that including heat from renewable resources into the state support scheme is a very positive step. Before passing the recent Act on Support of Renewable Resources, only electricity from renewable resources was eligible for state support. The new legislation broadened the definition of renewable resources eligible for the state support scheme to include also those that generate heat, which was viewed as very positive development by the audience. The National Action Plan for Energy from Renewable Resources drew some criticism as it was viewed as deviating partially from its original purpose. Instead of setting minimal levels for use of renewable resources, the Plan wording basically sets a ceiling for use of such energy sources to 13.5 percent of gross energy consumption in the future.

Biomass is one of the most viable renewable resources in the Czech Republic. Currently the country grows biomass crops for energy purposes on 0.25 million hectares (MHa). Agricultural land calculated required to ensure the country's food security is calculated at 2.07 MHa. Total arable land in the Czech Republic is 3.29 MHa, or calculated a different way, 0.97 MHa of land is available for biomass crop production without impacting food security of the country.