

March 24, 2008

Southern Bioenergy Working Groups

Subject: Bioenergy pilot plants

Host: Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Contact: Brian Davison

Group Description:

The purpose of this working group is to optimize bioenergy pilot plant efforts across the Southeast by (1) Sharing information about pilot capabilities across the Southeast, (2) Influencing future choices so as to increase regional capabilities for piloting, (3) Allowing more piloting coordination between facilities, and (4) Sharing lessons learned in pilot management and operation.

Membership: Target membership consists of representatives of institutions that have, or are, developing pilot capabilities. Interested observers are also welcome

Actions:

1. Compile list of pilot facilities, websites, POC, and planned capabilities across the SE
2. Devise ongoing mode for information sharing to meet the above goals.

Subject: Opportunities to Develop Research Partnerships on Germplasm Development

Host: Virginia Tech

Contacts: Javed Iqbal & Bingyu Zhao

Group Description:

A sustainable bioenergy industry will depend upon on the guaranteed supply of feedstock. Therefore, a highly productive sustainable feedstock crops/plant species germplasm, well adapted to the Southern region, is the basic prerequisite to bring the bioenergy industry into the region.

This working group will bring together researchers from the public and private sectors working on developing new and improved germplasm of biofuel/bioenergy feedstock crops. The group will address four main categories of feedstock crops: (1) Lignocellulosic feedstock based on various grass/crop species, (2) Wood based feedstock species, (3) Readily available extractable carbohydrates based feedstock species, and (4) Oil seed based feedstock species for biodiesel production.

The primary purpose of this working group is to bring together scientists working independently and develop partnerships and collaboration in order not to duplicate research efforts and develop team-based research projects for better funding opportunities from various federal agencies.

The brainstorming done during this working group meeting can lead to coordinated projects. The public and private researchers working in the areas of (a) genetics, breeding and genomics of grass species developed/being developed for bioenergy feedstock, (b) genetics, breeding and genomics of tree species for bioenergy feedstock, (c) genetics, breeding and genomics of plant

species with potential extractable carbohydrates feedstock for bioenergy, and (d) crops used or being developed for oil seed production with emphasis on biodiesel production.

The group's objectives will be to:

1. Prioritize the feedstock species from each category with special reference to sustainability in the Southern region.
2. Network various researchers working on developing feedstock crops/ plant species for biofuel.
3. Develop complementary, not contradictory, research focus on various aspects of feedstock development.
4. Develop future collaborative teams for coordinated research projects.

Subject: Biomass Transportation & Logistics

Host: TBD

Contact: TBD

Group Description:

Biomass transportation and logistics are a critical element to the development of the bioenergy industry, particularly as the industry looks towards scaling up. Issues that working group members will address include (1) Moving feedstocks from the field to a biorefinery, (2) Moving fuel from the plant to the pump, and (3) Storing biomass.

There is currently no host for this group. If you are interested as serving as host, please contact Charity Pennock at cpennock@southern.org.