
Press Release

SynRg[®]: A cluster of 17 partners will explore the recycling of vegetable raw materials along the complete value chain

Start of project: July 1st, 2009

Nettetal, June 2009

As the result of a successful interdisciplinary project proposal it has once again been possible not only to show the benefits of green biotechnology, but also to lead a German research cluster with creative ideas and convincing project planning to win a research competition initiated by the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV). In an official ceremony on June 17, 2009 the state secretary Gert Lindemann presented the consortium, which is being coordinated by Phytowelt GreenTechnologies GmbH, with the notice of approval. The project will start on July 1st, 2009. The ministry will support the project with 3.3 million Euros over three years while the entire project volume amounts to 5 million Euros.

In the competition for the support of a research consortium by the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV), the research association System Biotechnology for the Production of Renewable Resources (**SynRg[®]**) has now received approval by the FNR (Agency for Renewable Resources). The consortium of 17 partners convinced the panel by their interdisciplinary approach for the optimization of a complete value chain – starting from the synthesis of raw materials, via the location of synthesis and the subsequent treatment, to the use of plant raw materials in the chemical industry and in energy production. The project was initiated and conceived by Phytowelt GreenTechnologies and Prof. Dr. Ulber of the Kaiserslautern Technical University of the SusChemD Initiative. Subsequently, prominent partners from research and industry could be won for the project.

“It is gratifying that the innovative ideas of our partners have received such a positive feedback at the FNR. This also demonstrates the technology-driving character of our efforts” states Dr. Welters, CEO of Phytowelt GreenTechnologies GmbH.

The purpose of the project is to widen the utilization of plant raw materials. By means of innovative methods and procedures it is intended to analyse and modify methodologies for the conversion of the complete value chain from a petrochemical approach towards the sustainable production of chemical raw materials, out of renewable resources. The aims are to optimize the vegetable base material – from breeding to harvest -, downstream processing – from harvest to cleaning -, and further processing – from conversion to derivatisation.

The coordinated cooperation of companies in collaboration with scientific institutes grants the necessary breadth, depth and efficiency and provides a special quality of synergy as well as the economic exploitation of the results. Prof. Ulber commented his conclusion about the success of the **SynRg[®]** idea with the words: “More and more the chemical industry acknowledges the complex potential of plants and wants to take advantage of the resulting opportunities for the production from renewable resources. “

Members of the consortium:

- CLAAS SE GmbH
- Evonik Degussa GmbH
- Forschungszentrum Jülich
- Fraunhofer Institute for Chemical Technology ICT
- Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety and Energy Technology UMSICHT
- GEA Westfalia Separator GmbH
- Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf
- Kleeschulte Agrar
- Leibniz-Institute for Agricultural Engineering Potsdam-Bornim
- Max-Planck-Institute for Plant Breeding Research
- Pilot Pflanzenöltechnologie Magdeburg e.V.
- Phytowelt GreenTechnologies GmbH
- Saaten-Union Resistenzlabor GmbH
- Süd-Chemie
- Technical University Kaiserslautern
- Technical University Munich
- University Potsdam


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