

Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 4/2016

Small scale anaerobic digesters

Small scale anaerobic digesters in livestock farming

In a recent report of IEA Bioenergy Task 37 explores the viability of small scale anaerobic digestion for livestock farming where there is a need to deal with animal manure and slurry in a manner that minimizes the emission of greenhouse gases. Dairy farming for example is dominated by small herds of animals, the slurry from which must be managed efficiently for the farm and to maintain high standards of health in a cost effective manner. AD is an acknowledged technology for farming operations that affords a high standard of manure management, the production of high quality biofertiliser and also the possibility of generating energy for own use as well as export.

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Small-scale Anaerobic Digestion: Case studies in Europe

Biogas-E has recently published a brochure with case studies showing that investment in small-scale AD might be profitable. The brochure intends to meet farmers' demand for more information concerning the current market situation of the small-scale anaerobic digestion technology. The authors aim to quickly guide those who are interested in the technology so that they can adopt a targeted approach in their search for information. The first part of the brochure offers a total of five case studies set in Belgium, Netherlands and France. These are followed by a market study focused on information provided by technology suppliers in Northwestern Europe.

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Support for on-site AD

The UK Renewable Energy Association (REA) has issued a new report calling the government to support small-scale on-site AD. It can help considerably to cut down CO₂ emission from the food supply chain at a cost three time lower than off-shore wind energy. The new FIT cost digression program introduce in February 2016 penalizes small scale AD even further with an extremely tight cap and a high digression rate. The REA consider that a minimum tariff of 16 p/kWh should be awarded to small scale AD < 100 kWe to make it viable and initiate rapid on farm deployment.

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The Italian Consortium of Biogas published its BiogasDoneRight concept

CIB shares its philosophy towards anaerobic digestion and soil carbon sequestration as a "sustainable, low cost, reliable and win-win BECCS solution". It also defends biogas as an environmentally sustainable, exportable product that can be easily taken to other countries thanks to its great adaptability to local agricultures.

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