



## Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 7/2014

### Policy and markets: Positive and negative news

#### **Germany: Approved EEG reform causes disappointment across the biogas industry**

Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet approved on Tuesday, 08 April 2014, the revised Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG), causing bitter disappointment across the biogas industry

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#### **German biogas faces serious problems**

Despite its great potential to contribute to the “Energiewende” (energy transition) in Germany, the biogas industry experiences a “very serious” situation according to Claudius da Costa Gomez, CEO of the German Biogas Association. A recent study conducted by the Fraunhofer IWES has shown that increased efficiency and flexibility would enable the German biogas sector to quintuple its generation capacity, reaching 15 GW. The optimism of the IWES study does not apply in practice. The forecast is that not more than 100 new plants with an installed capacity of under 40 MW are expected to be built in 2014.

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#### **USDA is accepting 2014 applications for REAP funding**

The USDA is seeking applications for the Rural Energy for America Program. Up to \$12.3 million in grants and \$57.8 million in loan guarantees is expected to be made available for the fiscal year 2014 awards. The money covers renewable energy projects and energy efficiency on small scale farm enterprises.

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#### **French energy and environment minister presented her support for biogas**

Ségolène Royal's position comes to underline the energy transition policy that she is willing to pursue during her mandate. Accordingly, it is envisioned that every county in France will have its own biogas plant. The producer association was disappointed about the negative opinion against their approach of catch crop for biogas between two main cultures, assuring that the ground is covered all year round.

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#### **Loan fund to encourage the uptake of small-scale on-farm AD plants in UK**

Farmers wishing to construct a small-scale AD plant (generating less than 250 kilowatts of energy per year) utilising farm waste such as manures and slurries to produce energy, can apply to the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) – which is managing the fund on behalf of Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

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