

Biomass Canada Cluster Webinar:

“Advancement in switchgrass and miscanthus value chains in North America and the European Union and their use for bio-based products”

Thursday, 17th June 2021, 4-5:30 pm CET/10-11:30 am EST/7-8:30 am PST

With the increasing number of regional, national and international net-zero emissions targets as well as the growing commitments by the private sector to reduce their carbon footprint by increasing the use of renewable energy and products, access to commercial quantities of sustainable, renewable and affordable feedstocks will play a key role in meeting these targets and commitments. Dedicated biomass crops have the potential to become one of the primary sources of feedstocks for bioenergy, biofuels and other bio-based products in the future, as projected by the US DOE, IRENA and IEA Bioenergy. Dedicated biomass crops such as switchgrass and miscanthus are grown specifically for their utilization in the production of renewable energy, chemicals, and materials in ways that do not displace food and feed production. If managed properly, these crops can diversify the rural economy, enhance biodiversity, sequester soil carbon and secure sustainable, renewable and affordable feedstocks for low-carbon economy.

In this webinar, the recognized leaders in the production and use of switchgrass and miscanthus in North America and the European Union will share their progress in the development of switchgrass and miscanthus value chains and their use for bioenergy and bio-based products. This webinar provides an international perspective on the potential opportunities to advance lignocellulosic feedstock use for a sustainable, low-carbon economy. The registration link, webinar agenda and the list of speakers are provided below.

To register for the free webinar, please click [here](#)

5 minutes	Introduction, Dr. Mahmood Ebadian, The University of British Columbia
15 minutes	Progress of demonstrating miscanthus based value chains in the GRACE project, Dr. Andreas Kiesel, The University of Hohenheim (Stuttgart, Germany)
15 minutes	Sustainable consumer products from perennial grass fiber, Dr. Sam Jackson, Genera
15 minutes	Scaling giant miscanthus production and use in the USA, Travis Hedrick, AGgrow Tech
15 minutes	Developing switchgrass and big bluestem as easy to grow low-cost crops for the biobased economy, Roger Samson, REAP-Canada
25 minutes	Panel Discussion

List of Speakers:



Dr. Andreas Kiesel

Scientist at the Department of Biobased Products in the Bioeconomy, The University of Hohenheim, Germany

Beside teaching in the area of Agronomy, Bioeconomy and Life Cycle Assessment, Andreas is actively involved in development, project management and execution of research projects. He is currently coordinating the EU BBI Demonstration project “GRACE” and contributing to the FACCE Surplus project “MISCOMAR+” in the EU Eranet Cofund system. His research is related to crop production and agronomy of perennial crops (mainly miscanthus) and development and assessment of biomass utilization options.



Dr. Sam Jackson

Vice president of business development, Genera , USA

Sam Jackson leads Genera’s business development, including sales, marketing, and public relations. His career has focused on developing sustainable, practical, and economical biomass solutions for a variety of products. He earned a PhD in natural resources from the University of Tennessee.



Travis Hedrick

Chief Operating Officer, AGgrow Tech, USA

Travis is the CEO of AGgrow Tech, an agricultural company focused on sustainable solutions for the emerging bioeconomy. AGgrow Tech is headquartered in Greensboro, North Carolina with production throughout the United States serving markets in livestock production, bioenergy, bioproducts and erosion control.



Roger Samson

Executive Director, REAP-Canada

Roger Samson is an agricultural plant scientist and the Executive Director of REAP-Canada. In 1991, he began working to develop native perennial warm season grasses as dedicated biomass crops. He was involved in some of the first efforts in North America to develop the crops for biofibre and thermal applications in the 1990’s. His main focus since 2006 has been domesticating these grasses through plant breeding to make them profoundly simple to grow, widely adapted and with improved biomass yield and quality.

About BioMass Canada Cluster (BMC): BMC’s mandate is to mobilize Canada’s agricultural biomass resources for bioenergy and bioproducts production by de-risking and commoditizing agricultural biomass in all regions of Canada, while mitigating and adapting to a changing climate. BMC is led by the [BioFuelNet Canada Network](#) and funded in part by the Government of Canada under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership’s AgriScience Program, a federal, provincial, territorial initiative / Financé en partie par le gouvernement du Canada dans le cadre du programme Agri-science du Partenariat canadien pour l’agriculture, une initiative fédérale, provinciale et territoriale and by the industry partners.

About Biomass and Bioenergy Research Group (BBRG): BBRG is a world-class research group, based at the University of British Columbia. The Group conducts advanced research and develops innovative solutions to meet the needs of the emerging biobased businesses in Canada and around the world.