

## Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37 July 2011

### Nuclear energy is out – The 2012 German feed-in law is in

On the 6 June 2011 the German government (Kabinett) decided to end the nuclear energy age in Germany and proposed a new feed-in law for renewable energies. At first everybody seemed to be happy because the tariffs were not reduced as much as most were afraid of. However, the government clearly favoured the large scale plants. Their tariffs were increased and the ones for smaller plants decreased as compared to the 2009 law. On top, the government included a few “killer elements” for small scale plants like stringent limitation of maize addition, 60% heat utilisation without counting the process heat for the digester, etc. The associations like Fachverband Biogas and the German Farmers Association started a strong lobbying. After three readings between 8 and 30 June 2011 the Bundestag (large chamber) accepted a revised, reasonably good law that went to the small chamber (Bundesrat). They accepted it on July 8. The basic tariffs range from 6.0 c€/kWh for plants  $\leq 20$  MW<sub>el</sub> to 14.3 c€/kWh for  $\leq 150$  kW. The tariffs are valid for plants utilising either 60% or more of the biogas produced in CHPs (digester heating counts for 25% heat utilisation) or alternatively the digesters are operated with at least 60% (by mass) of animal waste. Additional boni are given for the utilisation of wastes and energy crops and for gas upgrading up to 1,400 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h of biomethane if the methane slip is  $\leq 0.2\%$  and the electricity consumption for the upgrading process  $\leq 0.5$  kWh/m<sup>3</sup> of raw gas.

There is a special tariff for small scale plants ( $\leq 75$  kW) digesting at least 80% manure of 25 c€/kWh. There is another tariff for plants digesting at least 90% biowaste with post-composting of the solid fraction: 16 c€/kWh for  $\leq 500$  kW and 14 c€/kWh up to 20 MW.

The signal of the politicians is clear: They favour smaller scale plants digesting manure or biowaste

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### German Biogas success story continued in 2010

The German Biomass Research Center (DBFZ) presented recently the new survey. End of 2010, 5900 biogas plants were in operation with an installed power of 2,300 MW. The increase last year was 960 plants or 470 MW. The weighted average of the new plants was around 300 kW. 80% of the energy produced in all plants came from energy crops, where by 76% of the of the input mass was covered by maize silage. Manure covered about 45% of the input producing 11% of the energy. In addition to the electricity production, 48 gas upgrading plants (plus 17) produced 280m Nm<sup>3</sup> of biomethane corresponding to 0.4% of the natural gas consumption in 2009. This is still far away from the 2020 goal of the German government with 6b Nm<sup>3</sup> of biogas.

According to the German Biogas Association was the turnover of the biogas companies about 5.9b €. This is 22.5% of the total turnover for renewable energies (BMU). The number of working places in the biogas industry increased to 39,100 or 10.5% of all working places in the renewable energy business.

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