



**Position paper
„Energy from Biomass in the sense of
sustainable rural development“
of the international Workshop
of the Networks WECF und UNSER LAND
from 19.- 22th January 2006 in Fürstenfeldbruck**

„The exploitation underground“ from today, must not become the exploitation „overground,, from tomorrow“, that’s one of the main statements in the discussion about the development of alternative sources of energy.

50 partners and experts from altogether 7 nations, participated in an international and intercultural exchange of experiences, to which the networks WECF – Women in Europe for a Common Future - and UNSER LAND had invited, into the house of agriculture in Fürstenfeldbruck/Munich. In the centre of the interest stood not only the discussion about the role of the woman in the rural development, but above all although the “chances and risks“ of alternative sources of energy for rural areas.

With numerous examples from practise, not only the already achieved progresses were explained, but also the most frequent difficulties and current emerging risks, referring to the use and development of regional, sustainable sources of energy.

On the one side, there are good experiences with mixed crops, where oilseeds are sowed together with corn or pulse. Whereby one can produce energy very cheap and environmental friendly. On the other side, there are often very inconsistent „red tape“ difficulties and legal instructions, which hinder such engagement. So a regional brewery was punished, because, according to EU, the used oilseeds are not allowed to be sowed together with brew-barley, but as well as food oils separate.

For WECF it’s out of question, that, e.g. the use of biomass fuels could only be climate and environmental neutral, if it could be ensured, that there production and transport, especially over large distances, do not need more fossil energy for agro-chemicals and fuel, than it’s substituted by alternative fuels. That’s why, ecological cultivation an regional using must be supported.

Mrs. Seiltz, chairwoman of the network UNSER LAND, as well regards sustainable cultivation of energy plants as absolutely necessary, but also is aware of the high need of research achieving the missing economic efficiency – in particular if using the strong ecological agriculture regulations. A recently organised intern expert meeting on this issue also confirmed this facts. She strongly recommends not only a change of view, achieving our consorting with here developed future technologies and the coming (sustainable) co-operation with the so called “Developing countries”. She primarily bet on intelligent consorting with energy, just as on fair – regional and international partnerships. For here also very important is the incorporation of a broad active civil society, which make a stand for the energy change.

All participants of this meeting agreed not least in the fact, that the further development and use of „renewable energy“ has to be sustainable in any case and even now has to be covered on adequate criterions. Otherwise we run the risk of supporting the same monopolistic, undemocratic structures, with the same harmful social, ecological AND economical effects, like we had, when using fossil energies.

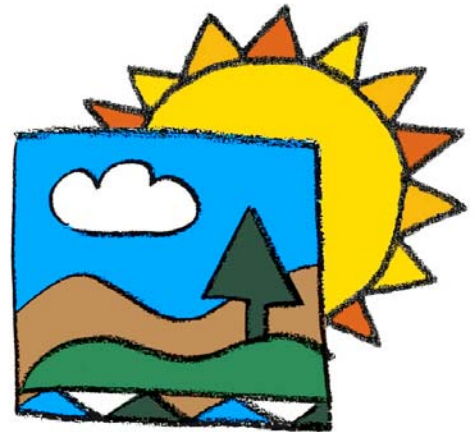
As the discussion about rural development already showed, women can (and want to!) play a central role too, supporting renewable energies and sustainable supplying structures. They engage themselves and are interested in various issues. That’s why they untimely should be motivated and, concerning their special needs, enabled, to take part on all levels, in the further developments of regional, national and international energy strategies.

The following main issues do we women want to make, concerning the EU Commission strategy for “Renewable Energies”:

- First of all, we have to solve our “Oil problem“. We shouldn’t create the same monopolistic structures, like the existing energy supply.
- Above all we have to use all possibilities of local renewable energy sources, improvement of energy efficiency and energy saving.
- The import and export of renewable energy should stay at the second place, to compensate regional deficits and should follow the motto:
 - Faire Trade – Faire Prize.
 - We should learn, not to export our „old technologies“ (to the developing countries), but the new one! It does make sense, to produce sustainable energy, where more „Oil“ is growing, than in our regions.
- A certificate for sustainable produced renewable energy for international trade is essentially necessary.
- Energy production with biomass shall not be in competition with feed production
- Small structured agriculture and middle-class structures should be supported and saved.
- We must take care for the whole circuit of the plants.
 - Which means e.g. creating quality standards on all levels – Production – Processing – Using!
- Mixed crop cultivations has to be supported in any case.
- Several years old plants should be supported.
- Ecological cultivation should be aimed and supported by adequate research, to solve different problems like:
 - the current missing economic efficiency for several species (e.g. to less output with sunflowers)
 - missing ecological seed
 - and the technical problems in use (e.g. problems with the motor because of different ignition point for linseed oil)
- The use of GMOs for the energetic use of biomass, may not become an option, because these technology is again connected with a centralistic control of only a few concerns and a few species of plants.
- The broad involvement of local people has to be guaranteed, e.g. by using or wide spreading of successful initiatives (see the resolution of UNSER LAND)

• Target

We want to make the change of energy production and supply in the districts of
Dachau
Ebersberg
Fürstenfeldbruck
Landsberg
Garmisch-Partenkirchen
Miesbach
München
Starnberg
Tölz-Wolfratshausen
Weilheim-Schongau
and the City of Munich.



ZIEL 21

*Wir schaffen
die Energiewende!*

**We have the goal to supply our region until the year 2030
almost complete with renewable energy**

We want to reach this goal by

- **reducing the energy consumption step by step**
- **using the most innovative technology at the time and**
- **the sustainable using of all home resources.**

We base on the creativity and the various competences of people, above all from the agriculture, handcraft, trade, industry, services, communities and churches. We need the support of all the responsible citizens in the districts and the cities.

Therewith we save our natural life resources and regional economic resources, with the goal to improve the quality of our life.

The participants of the

1. Energy-Conference for Munich and environs, 6th March 2004.