Supergen Bioenergy

Workshop: Land use decision- making for biomass crop deployment

We work with academia, industry, government and societal stakeholders to develop sustainable bioenergy systems that support the UK's transition to an affordable, resilient, low-carbon energy future.

Supergen Bioenergy Hub

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EPSRC UK Research and Innovation BBSRC UK Research and Innovation

Context: Why Now

- Critical time for UK perennial biomass crops
  - COP26
  - Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
    - Biomass policy statement: a strategic view on the role of sustainable biomass for net zero
  - Research funding – for crop deployment
  - UK Biomass Strategy update 2022
  - Environmental Land Management scheme (ELM)
  - Supergen Bioenergy Hub – last year

Common focus on increasing UK perennial biomass crops deployment in a way that is sustainable and uses land effectively.

“getting the right biomass crop in the right the place”

Aim

- Bring together key stakeholders to **explore**
  - Where is the “right place” for perennial bioenergy crops in the UK
  - Revisit the challenges/barriers to bioenergy crop deployment to understand the relevance's in the current social, economic and environmental context.
  - What tools are available/needed, to help support perennial biomass crop deployment at national, local and farm scale

Output

- Workshop report
  - Published on the Supergen Bioenergy Hub website and freely available to all.

Format

- Three sessions
  - Talk
  - Discussion (30 min)
    - Breakout groups
    - Mural board to collect points (Intro slide coming up)
    - Two parts - Collection ideas, Discussion of common themes/criteria
    - Feedback poll for breakout session 1 and 2 (before wrap up)
  - Break at 11:30

- Data – collection and use
  - Points made on the board maybe used to inform the report, including direct quotes.
  - All point will be anonymised in the report. Although we may define stakeholder groups “policy, Industry, Academia, NGO….”
  - Points made verbally in the discussion will not be used and in general Chatham house rules apply

Discussion 1: Where is the “right place” for perennial bioenergy crops in the UK?

- What criteria should we be using to define land as suitable for biomass crops in our models?
  - Economic
  - Social
  - Environmental
  - Other
- When listing your criteria please consider how any criteria would be applied practically in modelling.
  - Field sizes (energy crop scheme had 3 ha min)
  - Restriction on planting on certain land use or protected land (archeologically sites)
  - Yield requirements

Discussion 3: What are the barriers that land use models can help overcome, and what do they and don't they answer?

- What scale do we need tools to work at? and how accurate do they need to be?
- What output do we need (yield, environmental)
- Do we need detailed models at all? Or just criteria of where not to plant?
- Examples of tools/models currently used or in development.