



ContaminatEd land Remediation
through Energy crops for Soil Improvement
to liquid biofuel Strategies

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PRESS RELEASE

2nd year meeting of the EU research project CERESiS at Viterbo, Italy

10-11 November 2022

The CERESiS consortium partners have met both virtually and physically on November 10th and 11th 2022 at Viterbo, Italy. This meeting was organized and hosted by the University of Tuscia to discuss and communicate the work that has been done so far within the project. The main objective of this meeting was to perform a follow up of the project's activities and actions up to Month 24 of the project and define the next steps in order to ensure its success. All consortium partners have had the chance to show the project progress through presentations and coordinate the next steps. Visits to UNITUS (University of Tuscia) facilities and phytoremediation sites were also organized.

Throughout the two days of the meeting, discussions among the partners revealed the significant progress made in the first 2 years of the project.

More specifically, the main points of discussion concerned the improvements made in the three project's pillars, namely, phytoremediation, biomass technologies, and the Decision Support System (DSS).

Significant achievements were noticed in the phytoremediation pillar, as biomass has now been produced and it will be used to provide data to tailor the Decision Support System. Fifteen field and greenhouse trials for the purposes of the CERESiS work were established in Italy, UK, Ukraine, and Brazil.

In parallel, partners involved in the development of the technological pillar showed that progress has been made in the technological solutions, for the conversion and cleaning of acquired biomass. So far experiments in lab scale have been conducted (18 experiments in the SCWG) and results suggested a satisfactory yield and a carbon efficiency of 79.3 %. Also, the Fast Pyrolysis reactor has been tested (10 experiments) and optimized giving an increased bio-oil yield, however, FP operating conditions will be optimized again for greater future yields.

Finally, results and data from the phytoremediation and the technological pillars are being evaluated in terms of their quality in order to feed the DSS, which comprises the third pillar of the project, thus improving and supporting the development of the system.



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A **highlight** of the meeting was the visits to the facilities of the University of Tuscia and the phytoremediation sites, where the partners had the opportunity to see the fields at which biomass (*Reed Canary Grass*) production and harvesting are taking place. Furthermore, a workshop on Phytoremediation & Management of Contaminated Soils took place with the participation of EAB and invited speakers. During the workshop, experiences from field trials, lessons learned, challenges, opportunities, and critical parameters related to the practical implementation of phytoremediation techniques were discussed providing the opportunity to share knowledge among the participants.

Photos



A view of the fields of Uni Tuscia where Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris Arundinacea*) is grown to serve as biomass for CERESiS



A view of the meeting room at the University of Tuscia where the M24 meeting took place

For further information

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CERESiS project



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