

BIORAF – Biorefinery Research Centre of Competence

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The project employs the techniques of green chemistry for biomass utilization to the high added-value products and energy sources. By refining, it is possible to obtain food supplements, fodders and fertilizers, new-generation biofuels and



energy from the biomass of microbial, plant or animal origin. Biorefining is a unique way of new sustainable substitution of fosil fuels minimizing the adverse effect on environment while exploiting the whole volume of biomass.

The project, which started in 2012, creates an interdisciplinary center with high innovation potential for sustainable utilization of renewable sources, and will bring the Czech Republic to the leading position in next-generation biorefinery within next eight years. The project links the private sector with experts from different fields of science (e.g., biosciences, phycology, analytical chemistry, enzymology, microbiology, chemical and biochemical engineering, material engineering, etc.).

Sustainable biomass resources, which will not compete with food crops in the use of agricultural land, will be employed in the project. New environmentally friendly processes for biomass biorefining will be developed in the order to obtain products with high market value and increase the market opportunities of participating companies, which will promote job creation. New technologies will be validated in the demonstration and pilot plant units; the developed products and technological processes will be commercialized.

Within four years, new intellectual property in the field of biorefinery will be created. The transfer of know-how from research to commercial sector will help to increase innovation potential and export opportunities of the participating companies. The project will bring the lend support to the Czech agriculture and industry and attract significant long-term investment opportunities in new technologies with high socio-economic impact.

Educational programs for graduates and young scientists will be developed to create experts in emerging technologies and opportunities for their employment. Finally, the project will contribute to the independence of the Czech Republic on fossil fuels and help to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases.

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