

THE FUTURE OF THE RUSSIAN MARKET FOR SUSTAINABLE BIOMASS FOR PELLETS AND WOOD CHIPS WAS DISCUSSED IN ST. PETERSBURG



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On November 6-7, a round table "Sustainable Forest Management and Biomass Production in Russia" was held in St. Petersburg with a field trip to the forest. They discussed the prospects and risks of a sharp increase in the production of pellets and wood chips in Russia, as well as international requirements for such products, including FSC and SBP certification.

FSC of Russia organized the event. The largest European and American companies studying the entry into the Russian market became co-organizers and sponsors: Hoffer, Enviva, Drax, Orsterd. About 60 participants from all over Russia, representing producers and traders of pellets and wood chips, non-governmental organizations, forest management bodies, the expert and scientific community, certification bodies, took part in a round table and a field trip to the rental base of Luga-Les LLC. Such great attention to the event reflects the market trend for the growth of pellet production in our country.

According to the International Bioenergy magazine, in 2018 the Russian pellet market reached its maximum value in recent years - 1.44 million tons. Experts believe that in 2019-2024. growth will continue. According to some estimates, processing even half of Russian wood waste will increase the volume of pellet production up to 8 million tons per year. This will lead Russia to the TOP in this market (while the USA occupies a leading position).

Among the speakers of the round table were Yuri Shuvaev, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, Nikita Pavlovich, Department of Forestry in the North-West Federal District, representatives of international certification systems FSC and SBP.

They discussed key requirements for biomass production from sustainable sources and export requirements. One of the most important of these conditions is the SBP certificate, which speaks about the origin of fuel pellets from legal and sustainable sources.

SBP CTO Simon Armstrong said: “The SBP scheme was born recently, but it is developing dynamically. Today, 65% of biofuels in the European market are SBP certified. 190 certificates were issued in the world, including 27 in Russia. In the coming years, growth will be observed in this industry not only in Europe but also in Asia, especially in Japan, South Korea and China. ”

For manufacturers from Russia, there are peculiarities in obtaining an SBP certificate.

“There are different definitions of sustainability on the market today, and they are constantly being reviewed. This stability is tested by SBP certification. SBP certified companies must confirm that the raw materials for the production of pellets were obtained from legal and responsible sources. Today, all SBP certificate holders in Russia and certification applicants are FSC certificate holders, ”said Simon Armstrong.

One of the important topics of discussion at the round table was the existing prospects and problems in the production of certified biomass in the north-west and in other regions of Russia.

Timber processing companies also shared their experience in biofuel production, working with contractors, FSC and SBP certification, and transportation.

Michael Hjorth Christensen, CM Biomass Partners A / S, noted that the main difficulty in delivering wood chips and pellets from Russia is related to the underdeveloped transport infrastructure in Russia, the lack of special means for loading wood chips into ships, railway cars and transshipments to ships. A typical way to transport chips is to transport in large bags, which greatly complicates and increases the cost of logistics. Despite the fact that new ports are being built in the northwest, no one provides for the creation of modern infrastructure suitable for storage, fast and inexpensive loading of wood chips on ships.

Alexander Voropaev from WWF Russia emphasized that even certified pellets can be considered a sustainable and environmentally responsible solution, only provided that they are made from forest waste, logging residues and other raw materials from sustainably managed forests, confirmed by voluntary forest certification, in particular according to the FSC scheme.

Justin Tait, Enviva's European sustainability manager, explained that the company has implemented an effective system for ensuring the origin of wood pellets from legal and responsible sources only. Enviva points out the important role that FSC certification plays in validating suppliers' compliance with these requirements.

The second day of the round table was held in the format of a field trip. The participants visited the rental territory and production base of Luga-Les LLC (Leningrad Region) and there they continued to discuss issues such as the difference between “good” forestry and “bad” forestry, especially the allocation and preservation of high conservation values, the use of cutting residues for production biofuels and more.

“A sharp increase in demand for firewood and logging residues can help develop competent, intensive forestry in Russia,” said Nikolai Shmatkov, director of the FSC Russia. - We welcome that the world's largest

producers and traders of biofuels are considering entering the Russian market and are not afraid of the difficulties associated with the instability of the investment climate, often changing forest legislation and other difficulties. We are also glad that these companies demonstrate a responsible approach and consult with forest management bodies, non-governmental organizations and experts so that their work in the Russian market is environmentally and socially responsible. "

Original article can be viewed here: <http://www.infobio.ru/en/node/4661>