

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

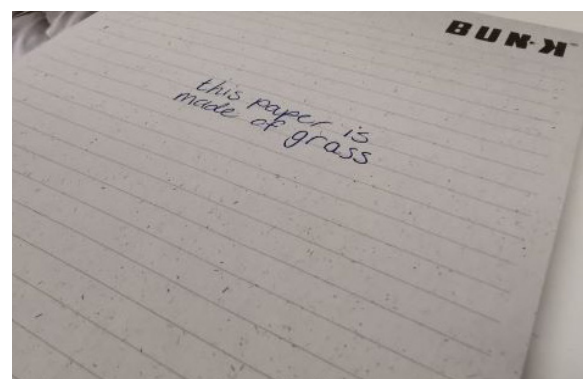


Dutch Demo

The objective of the Dutch GO-GRASS demo-site is to develop a process to extract fibres from roadside and natural grass in order to produce high-quality packaging and paper. ACRRES oversees this DEMO, which is executed in collaboration with HB (substituting VMT in the first year of the project), SCHUT, and NFW.

Currently, low quality natural and roadside grass are used for low added value applications such as compost. In the Dutch demo-site the grass-fibres are separated and isolated through a digestion process and then used for the production of paper and cartons. The process of turning a low value resource into paper generates value and revenues for farmers, other landowners and (regional) governments. The solution reduces the costs previously needed for disposing roadside grass. The environmental benefits are also clear, as less trees have to be cut for the production of paper. Before trees are cut down and processed into paper and packaging, they first have to grow for many years, while grass grows every year anew.

The small-scale production of paper, where a small portion of grass (2%) is added, is a process that already exists. However, liberating the cellulose from the grass and completely substituting all the wood-based cellulose is a breakthrough innovation in the paper industry. An important consequence of the result is that it will also create new business and income for rural areas where the grass can be produced. One challenge is that roadside grass is still considered a waste product in legal regulations. To use this material for high value products instead of composting or burning, will have a positive impact on the current levels of greenhouse gases.



Further information

www.go-grass.eu go-grass@atb-potsdam.de
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Partners



This research project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°862674.

