



AGRICULTURE is a strategic reservoir in combating the **greenhouse effect** —

The development of agro-energies as a strong point for sustainable development

One of the most urgent challenges to be addressed concerns climate change and energy saving. Agriculture, on this front, already plays a very important role in the fight against greenhouse gases. In the double game of absorption-emission, the agro-forestry sector has a positive balance of 34 million tonnes of CO₂, thus balancing an important amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by human activities (urban, industrial areas, transport, etc...).

The indications of the National Strategic Plan incorporated in rural development programs are aimed at energy savings and the production of energy from renewable sources. Incentives are provided for the use of less energy-intensive crops or those with less impact on the soil.

Another important chapter regards the production of energy from renewable sources for which agriculture is still a very underdeveloped field. Only 8.5% of the national demand for energy comes from renewable sources. In the specific chapter of biomass, which covers 30% of the

renewable energy, the share referring to biofuels is 3%, while with 255 energy plants, that provided by biogas rises to 7%.

Renewable energy sources can be a strength for farms, and contribute to rural development while environmentally respecting the territory. In this sense, the NDPs provide incentives for farm investments such as the installation of plants and the creation of bioenergetic chains, both as infrastructure investments, such as creating joint facilities for power generation of renewable energy and recycling the heat for CHP.

The incentive also covers the construction and upgrading of transport networks, technology and harvesting logistics networks, and investments in micro-enterprises for the treatment and logistic management of renewable energy sources, the production and installation of boilers and equipment designed for the production of on-site biomass energy, training programmes for developing suitable business skills.

“AGRICULTURE BENEFITS EVERYONE”

The National Strategic Plan for rural development, drawn up by the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, aims at supporting competitiveness in the sector, enhancing the environment, improving the quality of life in the rural areas and increasing the farms' potential sources of revenue. With 17.6 billion euros until 2013, co-financed by the European Union.



“European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural Areas”
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