



ENERGY FROM BIOMASS

3rd E.C. Conference

Edited by

**W. PALZ
J. COOMBS**

and

D.O. HALL

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W. PALZ

Commission of the European Communities, Brussels, Belgium

J. COOMBS

Bio-Services, London, UK

and

D. O. HALL

King's College, University of London, UK



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ENERGY FROM BIOMASS

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**Proceedings of the International Conference on Biomass
held in Venice, Italy, 25–29 March 1985**

PREFACE

The success of the previous Conferences on Energy from Biomass, held in Brighton 1980 and Berlin 1982, and the continued interest among European countries, encouraged the Commission of the European Communities to organise the third conference on this area of energy production. It brought together about 500 experts from many countries thus presenting an international forum for discussion of the most recent advances in research and development, manufacture and industrial applications.

In the development of energy production from indigenous resources the importance of biomass is steadily increasing. This is now notable in temperate regions where it is associated with aspects of conservation, waste treatment and materials recycling as well as the use of crops, trees and residues from agriculture and forestry. Large government and industrial sponsored programmes in many countries of the world give ample evidence of this fact. This is particularly relevant at present in Europe where the problem of agricultural surpluses in the European Community is being discussed in terms of ethanol and short rotation forestry schemes.

The conference was organised on the basis of a number of common themes representing the resources upon which biomass energy in Europe is based. These are the sun, trees, wastes, agriculture, aquaculture and natural communities. These common themes were explored from a different viewpoint during each day of the conference.

The opening sessions were used to introduce the Energy from Biomass programme of the European Communities, followed by presentation of some of the key areas in terms of problems, resources and technical progress which are influencing the rate at which biomass energy systems are being adopted within Europe.

On the third day the technical sessions were concerned with biomass production and handling, and on the fourth day with conversion of biomass to fuel. The last day was devoted to implementation and analysis of the current status of biomass schemes within Europe as well as systems around the world.

As an integral part of the programme there were very well presented Poster sessions (over 200 papers) and Round Table discussions on topical themes such as resources, land use for food or fuel, and environmental impacts; also Workshops where specific technical aspects were discussed in depth were successfully inaugurated.

The participation of technical, industrial and scientific people along with politicians and planners made for a lively meeting. Biomass for energy is maturing fast as an established component of the energy scene. These Conferences play a very useful role in enabling people of such diverse interests to interact to great advantage

Professor D.O. Hall
Dr W. Palz
Conference Chairmen.

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