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Biomass and Bioenergy from Forests: Challenges and Prospects for the Future

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Message from the Guest Editors

Biomass from forests and dedicated forest plantations represents a renewable source used in the production of thermal and electrical energy, as well as to produce timber for industrial use. From the point of view of energy production, it represents a valid alternative source to fossil fuels capable of producing energy in a more sustainable way and with a lower environmental impact. The biomass supply chain for energy is certainly more complex than the fossil fuel supply chains. The considerable variability of the raw material procurement conditions, linked both to the level of mechanization used in the various stages of the production process, and to the quality and quantity of product available, to market conditions and to price fluctuations, strongly affects the energy producible from forest biomass and the stability of its price. For this reason, all those production systems and models capable of optimizing the various production processes of the energy chain must be encouraged, providing solutions on the design, management and final transformation of biomass.



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