STUDY VISIT FROM FINLAND TO SWEDEN

Forest Refine arranged a study trip for the BioValley Cluster and other bioeconomy professionals from Finland to come to Sweden in March 2014. The overall theme was bio-based clusters and to show pilot and demo facilities upgrading forest biomass. The purpose of the study tour was exchange of knowledge and experiences, networking and inspiration. Hosts were the Swedish’ partners in Forest refine; BioFuel Region, SLU and Processum. The guests visited Örnsköldsvik and Umeå. Study visits, questions and discussions made the travel worthwhile.

PROGRAM STUDY VISIT

11th of March in Örnsköldsvik

Presentation:
The Biorefinery of the future, Processum
Study visits:
Biorefinery Demo Plant and Biorefinery Pilots
Domsjö Fabriker

12th of March in Umeå

Presentations:
BioFuel Region cluster
The department of Forest Biomaterials and Technology - Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)
Bio4Energy
Visits:
Pilot and Demo Torrefaction UmU
Pilot and demo BTC Umeå
More about the visitors
Finnish Forest Refine partners are part of Biovalley network. Aim of the network is to promote cross border cooperation in the field of natural resources, top-level research, development work and strong business activities. BioValley organised the study Visit from Finland to Sweden and will host a visit to Finland in May 2014. In addition to Biovalley network, also several participants from Eastern Finland participated in the visit.

Expectations before the visit: BioFuel processes - Research - Entrepreneurship
- Inspiration to how and what to do at home in Finland
- To learn more about pilots and collaboration
- Learn from the Swedish Pilot plants - i.e. scale, organisation, financing around pilots
- How to transform research results and ideas into new innovations.

Participators - Finland
Biovalley: Anne Pesola
Energy and Resources/Peat, Geological Survey of Finland: Asta Harju
Federation of Education in Central Ostrobotnia: Sanna Tuukkanen
Joensuu Science Park: Harri Wålîmäki, Terrii Kinnunen
Karelia University of Applied Sciences: Helena Puhakka-Tarvainen, Juha Kilpeläinen
Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius: Henna Lempiäinen, Ulla Lassi
North Karelia Municipal Education and Training: Harri Ignatius
Technology Center Ketek Ltd: Leena Favén
The Finnish Forest Research Institute Metla: Paula Jylhä
University of Eastern Finland: Aki Villa
University of Eastern Finland: Ari Pappinen, Suvi Kuittinen

Voices from Finnish guests:
“Sweden is 10 years ahead”
“I think the cooperation is impressive”
“I appreciated study visits, questions and discussions”
“This kind of tourism should be developed”
“We have common ideas and projects in both countries - Why not work with them together?”

Participators - Sweden
Bio4Energy: Stellan Marklund
BioFuel Region: Erika Åberg, Magnus Mattison
Dept. of Forest Biomaterials and Technology, SLU: Dan Bergström, Gunnar Kalén, Michael Finell, Tomas Nordfjell
Domsjö Fabriker: Hans Grundberg
Region Västerbotten: Lena Friborg
SP Processum: Andreas Hörnberg, Björn Alriksson, Clas Engström, Jonas Joelsson, Yvonne Söderström
Umeå universitet: Linda Pommer

“The purpose of the visit was to increase cooperation between Sweden and Finland to further develop the bio-based economy for regional development and also to demonstrate positive example for whole Europe. This was a good stepping stone”, says Magnus Mattison Project Manager Forest Refine.
The aim of the Department of Forest Biomaterials and Technology at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences is to carry out high-quality research and undergraduate and postgraduate education on an international level and to collaborate with the society and industry to develop a bio-based economy where forest biomaterials are an important resource.

The main focus will be on the value chains within the bio-based industry and the characterization, separation, modification, processing, use and recycling of forest biomaterials in an ecologically sustainable way and for cost effective causes.

The strategic network BioFuel Region was formed in 2003 and is a partnership between municipalities, businesses, regional associations, county councils, and universities in the four northernmost counties in Sweden. Overall aim of BioFuel Region is to become a leading region in the transition to a sustainable society; economically, socially and ecologically.

The driving forces behind working with the transition to renewables are to contribute to the fight against climate change, increase self-sufficiency and regional development. Focus areas are renewable energy with emphasis on transports and products based on biomass.

We are working together with the members to develop the region’s raw material, skills, business and society by promoting our region. Our strategies are: cooperating with members, networking – triple helix, exchanging knowledge, influencing opinion and engaging young people.

The research environment Bio4Energy in Northern Sweden develops methods and tools for the production of biofuels, “green” chemicals and bio-based materials from forest-sourced raw materials or organic waste.

Some 230 researchers across seven research and development platforms link together to cover the entire biorefinery value chain from breeding trees to delivering an end product. The Bio4Energy founding members—Umeå University, Luleå University of Technology, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and the research institute Innventia—cooperate closely with each other and with a range of actors in industry and academia.

In 2009, more than 20 industrial companies pledged their support for creating the Bio4Energy Strategic Research Environment, appointed by the Swedish government.

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