

Pilot Project / Case study

1000 ettari di biodiesel

1000 ha of biodiesel

Project summary

Pilot Project “1000 ha of biodiesel” is based on the definition and the implementation of a complete biodiesel chain, from field to tailpipe, in the north of Italy. The main stakeholder is Lombardy Region and the actors are some public and private organisations, led by Navigli Lombardi Scarl, aimed to try an interesting challenge in the current biofuels market: to implement and to check the real sustainability of a supply chain of biodiesel in the 2008 Italian biofuels scenario.

Introduction

The aim is to grow biofuel crops (soy and rapeseed) on about 1000 hectares of agricultural land in Lombardy Region, in the north of Italy. Approximately 1000 tons of biodiesel should be produced for fuelling public and private fleets. Initially the project focused only on boats for the inland navigation on the Navigli di Leonardo da Vinci, a channels grid within Milan municipality, but today the goal is to extend the use of biodiesel to other vehicles fleets.

According with a rough estimate, the total amount of biodiesel produced could be used, as B100, by approximately 1000 cars. The use of blends with a smaller content of biodiesel should increase proportionally the number of final cars using the mixture.

The coordination of the project is managed by Navigli Lombardi Scarl, a private organisation led by a board of directors made up by a majority of Public Authorities (Region Lombardy, Province of Milano, several Municipalities). Its management is established by regional laws and it could be considered a public body.

Beside Navigli Scarl, play an important role:

- Lombardy Region, as main funder and stakeholder. Lombardy Region is one of the main important region in the north of Italy, always active in the promotion of biofuels and biomasses.
- Consorzio Agricolo di Milano e Lodi – Agricultural Union of Milano and Lodi, for the management of the agricultural part of the chain,
- CTI – Italian Thermotechnical Committee as technical advisor and Bio-NETT partner,
- Assocostieri Unione Produttori Biodiesel – National Association of Biodiesel Producers,
- Local associations of farmers.



Short Description of the Pilot Project

The object of this pilot project is the definition and the implementation of a complete biodiesel supply chain, from the field to the tailpipe, for public and private fleets.

Technical Data:

Available land: about 1000 hectares

Fuel Crops: soy and rapeseed

Fuel: about 1000 t/year of Biodiesel to be used pure or blended. 1000 t of B100 is suitable for fuelling approximately 1000 cars/year.

Final users: public and private fleets and boats on Navigli Channels.

Main actors:

- Lombardy Region – Main funder and stakeholder
- Navigli Lombardi Scarl - Coordinator
- Consorzio agricolo di Milano e Lodi

- Comitato Termotecnico Italiano
- Assocostieri – Unione produttori biodiesel
- Associazioni agricole: Cia, Confagricoltura, Codiretti

Estimated cost: 310.000 € for the first year of activity. Funds are provided by Lombardy Region and all the other actors involved.

Current status:

Under the coordination of Navigli Lombardi Scarl, and with the technical support of CTI, a feasibility study is being carried out taking into account the Italian changeable market situation. In the meanwhile the coordinator and CTI are trying to identify fleets potentially interested in the use of biodiesel.

The Consorzio Agricolo is planning the next agricultural activity in order to produce the requested amount of seeds to be crushed for the oil production.

Assocostieri will give technical support for the conversion of pure oil in Biodiesel.

During 2008 the first fuel crops cultivation is expected to start.

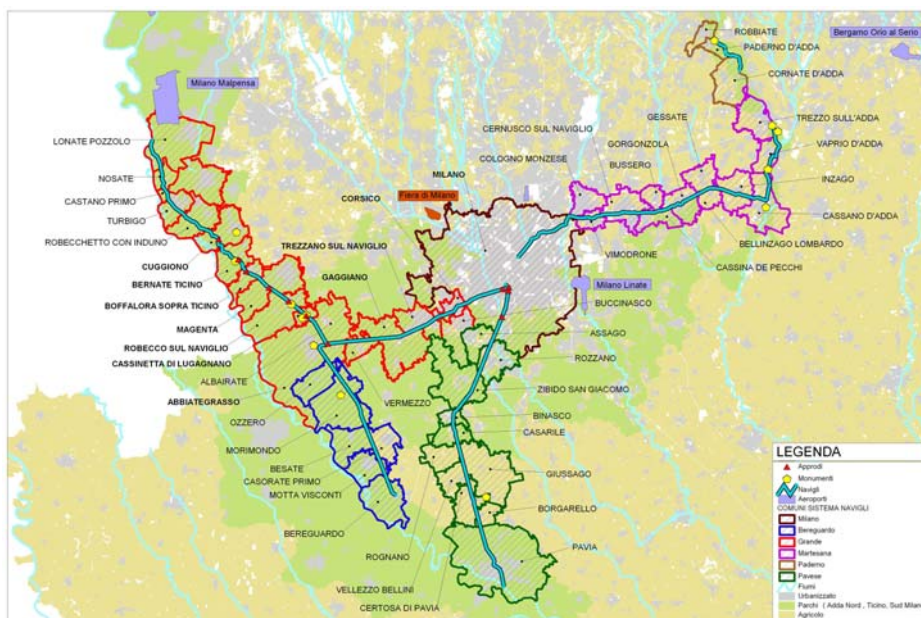


Figure 1 – Navigli di Leonardo Da Vinci – Channels grid



Figure 2 – Lombardy Region and area involved by the project activity with fuel crops cultivation.