



Press note

European BioEconomy Manifesto launched in Utrecht

On 12 en 13 april 2016 the Dutch presidency of the European council launched the European BioEconomy Manifesto. During the two days of the BioEconomy Utrecht 2016 conference important steps have been made towards this manifesto. The manifesto will eventually play a big role in the evolving of the new strategy for BioEconomy in Europe.

The Manifesto stated that the Bioeconomy is an economy which is not depending on fossil resources, and is in itself a solution to Millenium Development Goals as climate change, food security, and contributes to the jobs and growth agenda of the EU. Calls were made for better collaboration between Agri, research and innovation, and industry.

Around 300 representatives of governments, businesses, society and knowledge institutes from all over Europe had inspirational visits to 10 Dutch examples of the Bioeconomy.

PaperFoam, SolidPack, Rodenburg Biopolymers, Photanol, DSM, WuR, Acrres, Orgaworld, Seed Valley/Enza en BTG/Empyro opened their doors to the European guests to show them what is going on in the Dutch Bioeconomy. From fermentation of food residue of supermarkets and restaurants into electricity and heat, to processing wood into oil, the reuse and upgrading of manure, new packaging and products out of renewable resources (bio plastic), production of new recourses with algae, to plant breeding have been shown. Especially the cooperation in the whole value chain and between the different parties as governments, business and academia was seen as a factor for success for the Dutch Bioeconomy by the European guests.

In dynamic and interactive workshops the participants have spoken about the Bioeconomy challenges like regulatory barriers, investment climate and boosting innovation. In the manifesto the stakeholders stated the challenges, opportunities and necessary actions: For themselves, and addressing themselves.

The development of the Bioeconomy has a close link to the European discussion about circular economy. The European Commission published the Circular Package last December. The link between the Circular Package and the Bioeconomy will be discussed at the agricultural council on 15 May and further steps will be taken in the environmental council.

More information about BioEconomy Utrecht 2016 can be found at www.BioEconomyUtrecht2016.eu