Special Issue

Plant Biomass Production and Utilization

Message from the Guest Editor

Due to rising energy prices observed worldwide, biomass plants will play an even greater role as energy crops or as a raw material substitute for petroleum-based products in the future. In addition to the possibility of reducing fossil CO2 emissions or encapsulating CO2 in long-lasting biobased products, other sustainability goals must also be considered. In this context, it is advisable to approach the topic from the perspective of the plant as well as the product by the most interdisciplinary means possible. It is very difficult to overcome this challenge, because farmers only cultivate biomass plants when their sales are assured. Due to the limited amount of arable land available, environmentally and site-appropriate cultivation, must be carefully considered. In this respect, innovative approaches such as the cascade use of valuable raw material plants, in which energy use only represents the very end of the utilisation cascade, could also offer potential solutions. The aim of this Special Issue is to identify such alternative, transdisciplinary approaches aiming to enable the innovative and sustainable cultivation of biomass plants in the future.

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