

# SAHYOG Newsletter - Issue 1, July 2012



## The SAHYOG project: Strengthening Networking on Biomass Research and Bio-waste Conversion – Biotechnology for Europe India Integration

The main aim of the project SAHYOG is to bring together leading organisations in the field of **biomass production and bio-waste conversion research** carried out within EU research programmes and related programmes by Indian national institutions.

**Inventories of biomass and bio-waste potentials and research projects/programs** elaborated and analysed within SAHYOG are the basis for the joint **Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)** finally leading to a **Roadmap for policymakers and researchers**.

SAHYOG ensures wide-range networking of relevant industries and scientific communities and establishes **linkages between on-going research and innovation projects from EU and India**.

Please see [www.sahyog-europa-india.eu](http://www.sahyog-europa-india.eu) for more information.

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## Project News

In this newsletter issue, we would like to take the opportunity to introduce our readers to the main objectives and activities of the SAHYOG project focussing on EU-India research cooperation in the fields of biomass production and bio-waste conversion.

## SAHYOG Activities

Main activities of the SAHYOG project include:

- Elaboration of **inventories on important research themes**, as well as on **research programmes and projects** in the area of biomass and bio-waste.
- Elaboration of a **Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)** to facilitate **concerted planning of future EU-India research initiatives** in the area of biomass and bio-waste.
- Definition of a **Roadmap identifying key targets** to scale up EU-India collaborations.

- **Twinning of projects** from India and Europe in order to ensure exchange of information, data, materials and methods.
- **Short-term exchanges** of junior and senior researchers based on transparent calls for proposals for young talents and senior experts from India and Europe.
- Organisation of **summer schools in Europe and India** involving renowned international lecturers.
- Organisation of several **stakeholder workshops** and a **final SAHYOG conference** to ensure widespread communication of project activities and results.

### SAHYOG Kick-off Meeting in Brussels

Project activities were launched in January 2012 with the SAHYOG kick-off meeting at the ENEA – EU Liaison Office in Brussels. The work programme of the upcoming 3 project years was fine-tuned and good foundations were laid for a fruitful cooperation of all SAHYOG partners with the aim to strengthen EU-India research cooperation in the fields of biomass and bio-waste.



Participants of the SAHYOG kick-off meeting in Brussels

### SAHYOG Expert Meeting in Bruges

This international meeting between SAHYOG partners and experts from Europe and India was organized on 10 May 2012 as a side event of the conference i-SUP 2012 - International Conference on Innovation and Sustainable Production, 6-9 May 2012, Bruges, Belgium.

The aim of this meeting was to discuss the templates used for data collection for the SAHYOG inventories of biomass/bio-waste production and biomass research projects. This provided an opportunity to improve the methodology, identify missing links and streamline the inventorisation process in India and Europe.

Apart from the project partners, experts have been invited from European and Indian funding agencies, industries, agriculture producers, as well as other biomass projects and existing international biomass networks.

The meeting agenda as well as all presentations are available at the SAHYOG project website: [www.sahyog-europa-india.eu/news-a-events/events/15-events/55-expert-meeting-may-2012](http://www.sahyog-europa-india.eu/news-a-events/events/15-events/55-expert-meeting-may-2012).



Participants of the SAHYOG expert meeting in Bruges



Meeting with the Nobel Prize Laureate, Prof. R. K. Pachauri (TERI, IPCC) at i-SUP 2012 India Night in Bruges

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### **SAHYOG at the Indo-European Research and Innovation Partnership conference**

200 European and Indian stakeholders from the public and private sectors gathered in Brussels on 31 May – 1 June 2012 to discuss common challenges, priority areas and instruments for enhanced Europe-India cooperation in research and innovation. Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science and Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, the Indian Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences addressed the conference, which provided an occasion for showcasing existing opportunities and good practices in Europe-India cooperation.

Following the EU-India Joint Declaration on Research and Innovation Cooperation in February 2012, this Conference was the first step in moving up a gear to build an Indo-European research and innovation partnership, with larger scale, scope and impact focusing on common challenges and enhanced synergies.

SAHYOG was represented by the coordinator Dr. Neeta Sharma, ENEA Research Centre Trisaia, Italy and Dr. Ludo Diels, VITO, Belgium in the **thematic session on bio-economy** (including optimization of agricultural systems, exploitation of bio-wastes) which aimed at identifying priorities for future EU-India cooperation and making recommendations on concrete actions to scale up the Indo-European Research and Innovation Partnership.

For more information on the conference, please visit: <http://www.europe-india-2012.eu/en/presentation>.

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