RESULTS OF THE COURSE TO PROMOTE BIODIGESTION TECHNOLOGIES IN GUATEMALA, COSTA RICA AND COLOMBIA

March 2025

More than 90 food sector professionals from different Latin American countries have been trained in biodigestion technologies, learning to manage organic waste from farms to convert it into raw material to generate energy.

The Course *Application of Biodigestion for the Agroecological and Bioeconomic Transformation of Agri-food Systems* has been organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Network for Biodigesters in Latin America and the Caribbean (RedBioLAC), and the WISIONS of Sustainability Program, from the Wuppertal Institute in Germany.

The Course, aimed at decision-makers and professionals from the agri-food sector in Colombia, Costa Rica, and Guatemala, provided tools for integrating biodigestion technologies into family farming, promoting sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change.

With the aim of promoting the use of biodigestion technologies, sharing successful experiences and promoting public policies that advance towards sustainable agri-food systems, the Course attracted more than 90 participants from across the Latin American region, including producers, policymakers, regulators, and researchers.

In 2023, within the framework of their activities for the dissemination of knowledge, the *Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)* and the RedBioLAC Network produced and disseminated the Report The Current State of Biodigestion in Latin America and the Caribbean. The presentation highlights that "the objective of the joint publication is to disseminate information about the importance of the use and consolidation of biodigestion in Latin America and the Caribbean among public policy makers, the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations and the general population. Despite the maximum benefits that biogas offers in environmental, social and economic terms, much of its usefulness in daily life and in rural agriculture is still unknown, and both institutions, in collaboration with experts in the field, decided to join forces to publicize, through the document, the current state of biodigestion.

In the organization of the Course, IICA highlighted that "Biogas and gaseous bio-energies play a fundamental role in the decarbonization of the energy sector. Biogas production must increase fifteenfold by 2050 to contribute to the fulfillment of the Paris Agreement, which seeks to keep the global average temperature increase below two degrees Celsius".

In this framework, the Course did not only strengthen the technical capacities of its participants, but it also generated a valuable exchange of experiences and the creation of a network that promotes the use of biodigestion, laying the groundwork for progress in its implementation and contributing to the development of more resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.

During the Course, field trips were conducted in Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Colombia, which included practical workshops at model farms that are already implementing biodigestion technologies. The demonstration tours have been a significant advancement in the dissemination and adoption of biodigestion technologies in the region. The first tour took place at the Central Agrícola farm in Guatemala, where opportunities and development benefits from the implementation of biodigestion in agricultural practices and organic waste treatment were highlighted, with an emphasis on the direct benefits for producers adopting it.

The next workshop was held at the Biamonte Agroecological Farm in Costa Rica, with the support of Viogaz, a local company specializing in the design, manufacture, and distribution of biodigesters. Topics covered included the evolution of biodigesters, research projects in collaboration with public universities, and relevant regulations regarding biodigestion. Additionally, there were demonstrations on the application of biodigesters used for renewable energy generation.

Finally, the tour concluded at Finca Líder in Colombia with technical support from Sistema Bio. This farm is an example of sustainability, using biodigesters to convert organic waste into renewable energy, improving soil quality, and reducing odors, making it a model of sustainable and innovative pig farming that positively impacts the environment and job creation.

These field trips facilitated contact between producers, enabling visits to other productive areas and knowledge exchange. RedBioLAC stressed at the conclusion of the Course that this interaction between the participants not only enriches the learning experience but also fosters the creation of networks and the exchange of best practices.

To know more

News in IICA website

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News in agronet.gov.co

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Viogaz en Costa Rica

Sistema Bio en Colombia

El Estado actual de la Biodigestion en America Latina y el Caribe 2023