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POTENTIAL OF SUGAR BEET IN THE DANUBE REGION

ABSTRACT

In the Danube Region Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany (Bayern), Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Moldavia and Serbia have produced sugar beet. But due to EU Sugar Reform the production had stopped in Bulgaria and Slovenia and reduced in the other EU countries. Currently in total 350.000 ha sugar beet are cultivated in Danube Region with average 56 t/ha root yield. But the potential of sugar beet area could be 1 million ha and the yields are increasing continuously.

In the last few years sugar beet is also considered as base material of bio-fuels. In these countries sugar beet yields average about twice the amount of bioethanol per hectare than corn and three times than wheat. In 2012 Germany produced 321,3 million litre and Czech republic 110,4 million litre agrar-ethanol. In addition to ethanol production, other components of the sugar beet plant (marc, top, tail) can be used advantageously for biogas production.

In this paper the possibilities of sugar and energy beet production in Danube Region are discussed.
