

Present Status on Biomass Energy Research and Development in Vietnam

PhD. Nguyen Hoai Chau – Deputy Director
Institute of Environmental Technology (IET)
Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology (VAST)
VIETNAM

Abstract

Vietnam has significant biomass resources such as sugar cane dredges, rice husks, coffee husks, coconut shells, wood residues, kind of wastes etc, but only a portion of sugar cane dredges is used for electricity generation. The main biomass resources possibly used for biomass-based power generation and co-generation in Vietnam, apart from sugar cane dredges, are wood residues, rice husks and rice straws.

However, the utilization of biomass in Vietnam is still in the traditional methods, mainly for household energy needs at very low efficiency (lower than 10%). Therefore, contribution of biomass energy in the whole energy supply has not been corresponded to its potential.

Since 1990s, government of Vietnam has paid more attention on the sector of renewable energy, especially biomass energy. Many international organizations are supporting Vietnam in research, development and implementation of biomass projects. There are some initial achievements in dissemination of biomass technologies in Vietnam. Several pilot projects have been implemented which have transferred the theoretical and experimental research results from laboratories in institutes, universities into practice. Biomass technology has initially attracted the attention of managers, investors and many other end-users.

Vietnam's government has many efforts to transfer the abundant potential of biomass into real energy sources for the development of the country. In the "Vietnam Energy Strategy – Vision to 2020", biomass energy is stated one of the most important renewable sources. However, in order to reach this goal, Vietnam has to further overcome the major barriers of promoting biomass energy in terms of technical, socio-economic problems. The most important tasks are establishment of comprehensive program for biomass energy development with appropriate policies which encourages the utilization of biomass technology and enhancement of international cooperation in the field of biomass research and development.