

BioMatNet: Biological Materials for Non-Food Products

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Biomatnet disseminates results of European RTD projects in the area of Renewable Bioproducts and Biomass Energy through a website (<http://www.biomatnet.org>), electronic newsletters and other publications (mostly as CD-ROMs). Organisations and individuals can register with the network to receive information on bulk chemicals, integrated crop protection, cosmetics, drugs and vaccines, bioplastics, (biodegradable) biopolymers and packaging, non-wood fibres, wood products and speciality chemicals as well as both liquid and solid biofuels. The main focus is on the 'Integrated production and exploitation of biological materials for non-food use', as funded under Key Action 5.2 of the Fifth Framework Programme, together with information from relevant projects funded within other areas of FP5 including *Energy and the Environment*, *The Cell Factory*, *Food Projects* and *The Forestry/Wood Chain* as well as *New and Sustainable Systems of Production*.

Biomatnet is a continuation of previous activities funded under the third and fourth RTD Framework Programmes (FP3, FP4). These enabled the dissemination results of previous non-food activities, including those within the ECLAIR, AIR, FAIR and JOULE programmes. This information is retained on the website, providing a historical perspective of European funding in this area extending back some 15 years. At the same time it is also forward-looking providing information on current funding opportunities under FP6, as well as facilitating the identification of partners and topics for those seeking funds from EC. This extends to information on the new *Intelligent Energy for Europe* programme that brings together activities in the areas of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, including extension of ALTENER and SAVE programmes.

Biomatnet is funded as an Accompanying Measure under the Quality of Life section of the Fifth RTD Framework Programme for 43 months and will run to the end of 2004.