



FarmTech 2007

Proceedings

Global Perspectives... Local Knowledge

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE BIOECONOMY: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGRICULTURE

David B. Layzell, President and CEO, BIOCAP Canada Foundation, Queen's University, Kingston, ON

High energy prices, concerns about the security of fossil energy supplies and mounting evidence linking fossil fuel emissions to climate change have all served to focus attention on finding both environmental solutions and new sources of clean and renewable energy. By enhancing carbon stocks in forests and agricultural soils, reducing non-CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions and providing a supply of renewable and sustainable biomass energy, chemicals and materials, Canada's agricultural and forestry sector can be a major part of the solution to the energy and environmental challenges of the 21st century. In the process, there is the potential for significant benefits to the rural economy. With two to five times the biomass production potential per capita of the USA, Canada is ideally poised to extend its energy superpower status to the production of biomass energy and biofuels. Dr. Layzell will explore the magnitude of the bioeconomy potential in Canada, and identify some of the opportunities and challenges that the agricultural sector, and Canada faces if the nation is to move in this direction.
