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Newsletter 1/2016



Dear readers,

the FP7 project DRIVE4EU – Dandelion Rubber and Inulin Valorization and Exploitation for Europe was initiated in February 2014 with a project duration of 48 months. The aim of this demonstration project is to develop a production chain of natural rubber and inulin from *Taraxacum koksaghyz* (TKS, Russian or Rubber dandelion) and to set up a new European chain for the production and processing of natural rubber. More information at: <http://www.drive4eu.eu>.

This newsletter will provide you with information on the project DRIVE4EU and the ongoing work, and as well on some past and upcoming events.

With best regards,  
The DRIVE4EU dissemination team

## Overview of our ongoing work

### Agronomy of Rubber Dandelion

Progress has been made in the agronomy of Rubber Dandelion. Field trials were conducted in 2014 and 2015 at ILVO (Belgium), Rusthoeve (The Netherlands) and InExCb-Kz (Kazachstan). In 2014, plantlets were planted on flat beds. Several planting densities and fertilization levels were tested in Belgium and the Netherlands. Furthermore preliminary tests with mechanical harvesting were conducted.

[Read more about the agronomy of rubber dandelion](#)

### Seventy years after cultivation in South Sweden: did the rubber dandelion leave genetic traces behind?

The interactions between *Taraxacum koksaghyz* (TKS) and wild dandelions are analysed within DRIVE4EU. The emphasis is on the exchange of genes. We want to see what happens if TKS is cultivated outside its natural range: can TKS maintain itself and does hybridization occurs

between TKS and wild dandelions? To get more insight one of the sites where TKS has been produced in the past is investigated further.

[Read more about the TKS cultivation in Sweden and the interactions](#)

### **Biorefinery process**

Intensive collaboration between industrial partners Netzsch and GEA and research institute Wageningen UR resulted in a design for an economically viable and environmental friendly bio-refinery process to obtain dandelion rubber.

[Read more about the biorefinery process](#)

### **Environmental assessment**

Using the methodology of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) environmental aspects of the DRIVE4EU process will be assessed. The aim is to identify, quantify and assess the most important environmental impacts and benefits of rubber, inulin and fructose production from TKS based on the whole value chain. The environmental effects are analyzed for each process in the value chain and in comparison to the processes of conventional rubber, inulin and fructose production.

[Read more about the environmental assessment](#)

## **DRIVE4EU meeting in Aalst, 15th – 16th March 2016**



*The 3rd progress meeting was held at the facility from Tereos in Aalst, Belgium from 15th to 16th March 2016. During the meeting the Tereos production site in Aalst was visited, which gave a great impression on starch and sweeteners production.*

## Published paper

A paper was published in "Preslia - The Journal of the Czech Botanical Society":

*Kirschner J., Oplaat C., Verhoeven K. J. F., Zeisek V., Uhlemann I., Travníček B., Rasanen J., Wilschut R. A. & Štěpánek J. (2016), Identification of oligoclonal agamosperous microspecies: taxonomic specialists versus microsatellites, Preslia volume 88.*

## Upcoming events



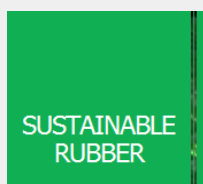
**ITEC – International Tire Exhibition & Conference**  
13th – 15th September 2016, Akron, OH, USA

[www.itec-tireshow.com](http://www.itec-tireshow.com)



**International Elastomer Conference**  
10th – 13th October 2016, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

[www.rubberiec.org](http://www.rubberiec.org)



**Sustainable Rubber Conference 2016**  
16th – 19th October, Xishuangbanna, China

[www.sustainable-rubber.org](http://www.sustainable-rubber.org)



**Tire Technology EXPO 2017**  
14th – 16th February 2017, Hannover, Germany

[www.tiretechnology-expo.com](http://www.tiretechnology-expo.com)



**The International Rubber Conference 2016**  
24th – 28th October 2016, Kitakyushu, Japan

[www.irc2016.com](http://www.irc2016.com)

## Contacts & imprint

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