

List of Speakers:



Dr. Andreas Kiesel
Scientist at the Department of Biobased Products in the Bioeconomy, The University of Hohenheim, Germany

Beside teaching in the area of Agronomy, Bioeconomy and Life Cycle Assessment, Andreas is actively involved in development, project management and execution of research projects. He is currently coordinating the EU BBI Demonstration project “GRACE” and contributing to the FACCE Surplus project “MISCOMAR+” in the EU Eranet Cofund system. His research is related to crop production and agronomy of perennial crops (mainly miscanthus) and development and assessment of biomass utilization options.



Dr. Sam Jackson
Vice president of business development, Genera , USA

Sam Jackson leads Genera’s business development, including sales, marketing, and public relations. His career has focused on developing sustainable, practical, and economical biomass solutions for a variety of products. He earned a PhD in natural resources from the University of Tennessee.



Travis Hedrick
Chief Operating Officer, AGgrow Tech, USA

Travis is the CEO of AGgrow Tech, an agricultural company focused on sustainable solutions for the emerging bioeconomy. AGgrow Tech is headquartered in Greensboro, North Carolina with production throughout the United States serving markets in livestock production, bioenergy, bioproducts and erosion control.



Roger Samson
Executive Director, REAP-Canada

Roger Samson is an agricultural plant scientist and the Executive Director of REAP-Canada. In 1991, he began working to develop native perennial warm season grasses as dedicated biomass crops. He was involved in some of the first efforts in North America to develop the crops for biofibre and thermal applications in the 1990’s. His main focus since 2006 has been domesticating these grasses through plant breeding to make them profoundly simple to grow, widely adapted and with improved biomass yield and quality.

About BioMass Canada Cluster (BMC): BMC’s mandate is to mobilize Canada’s agricultural biomass resources for bioenergy and bioproducts production by de-risking and commoditizing agricultural biomass in all regions of Canada, while mitigating and adapting to a changing climate. BMC is led by the BioFuelNet Canada Network with the financial support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s AgriScience Program and industry partners.

About Biomass and Bioenergy Research Group (BBRG): BBRG is a world-class research group, based at the University of British Columbia. The Group conducts advanced research and develops innovative solutions to meet the needs of the emerging biobased businesses in Canada and around the world.