



NEWSLETTER N° 1

January 2020

BioTHOP LIFE18 ENV/SI/000056

**BIOTWINE HOP
WASTE
TRANSFORMATION
INTO NOVEL
PRODUCT
ASSORTMENTS FOR
PACKAGING AND
HORTICULTURE
SECTOR**



Dear subscriber of BioTHOP LIFE project!

**Thank you for subscribing to our 1st newsletter!
We are pleased to inform you about activities and results of our project.**

LIFE BioTHOP (starting in July 2019, ending in June 2022) will introduce a 100 % recyclable and compostable twine into hop fields, as an environmentally friendly alternative to polypropylene twines, which are in use nowadays and which degradation in the nature can take up to 450 years.

The object of this project is to replace the polypropilene twine on the hop fields with the biotwine made of natural material polylactic acid (PLA), that can be degraded by composting to simple monomers.

Hop plant biomass after harvest can be used as main ingredient of composting and afterwards used as a natural fertiliser or material to produce biodegradable products (bio-composites, planting pots, packaging trays). Therefore, the agro-waste can be drastically reduced and the economy of the sold agro-waste to bioplastic producers can be increased.

The demo region, which is Lower Savinja valley in Slovenia, will be an example of good practice for all hop-growing regions not only in EU but also across the world.

The project will also benefit in socio-economic value as it can improve the green or so called eco-tourism. The goal is to completely upcycle the hop waste and to improve energetic efficiency by 25 % by using the biopolymeric composites. Considering the emission of the greenhouse gasses there should be 6-fold reduction compared to conventional plastic production.

To fulfil the requirements of the circular economy, the project partners are aiming to use the hop biomass after harvest and, together with this new twine, produce new bioplastic products in horticulture, agricultural and plastic packaging sectors.

**This newsletter will help us keep you updated on our progress!
For further information, visit our [WEB PAGE](#).**

Life BioTHOP partnership

PROJECT NEWS

31.12.2019, Žalec, Slovenia

Publication of two articles about the first project results in 26th volume of Hop Bulletin, published by IHPS and Lankhorst.



20.12.2019, Križevci, Croatia



Representatives of the Development Agency Savinja and the Municipality of Žalec visited the Development Center and Technology Park Križevci, Stojan Praprotnik, manager of Development Agency Savinja, partner in the LIFE project BioTHOP, presented the project, its aims and networking possibilities.

12.12.2019, Cambridge, England

LIFE Project BioTHOP was presented on IFS Conference in Cambridge. The hop biomass after harvest can be a material for making compost on the farm when using BioTHOP PLA twine for hop plant support during growth. Compost suitability was assessed within the first project months and presented to more than 100 participants.



06.12.2019, Žatec, Czech Republic



Fernando Eblagon from Lankhorst visited Žatec Hop Institute in CZ, where they will test the new BioTHOP PLA twine as the replicative region in 2021. F. Eblagon presented the project activities and the new, biodegradable twine installation and properties, Jozef Ježek PhD and Pavel Donner from Chmelařský institut s. r. o. explained the hop production in CZ and their training systems.

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FORECASTING EVENTS

21.1.2020 Stakeholder meeting in Žalec (SI) with hop-growers and municipalities of Lower Savinja Valley

13.2.2020 Hop-grower technical training in Laško, Slovenia

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