

PILOT SITE DESIGN

VERBRUGGEN

ERP, THE NETHERLANDS



Picture copywrite <http://tuincentrum.nl/miscanthus-sinensis-flamingo>

The site is situated at the edge of the village of Erp, on the slope from the plateau to the valley.

The land is used for agriculture already since 1850, probably as grassland due to its relatively low position in the landscape. Today, it is very close to the houses of the village.

The main activity is to harvest Miscanthus, to be used as substrate to grow biological mushrooms. Buying biological biomass suitable for mushrooms, such as biological straw, is very expensive and is recently imported from other countries such as France or Spain.

So, locally grown biological biomass (either or not from paludiculture) is an attractive alternative.

Size of pilot site: 150 000 M²

Peatland type: small depression with deep sandy layer

Land use: harvesting miscanthus for substrate

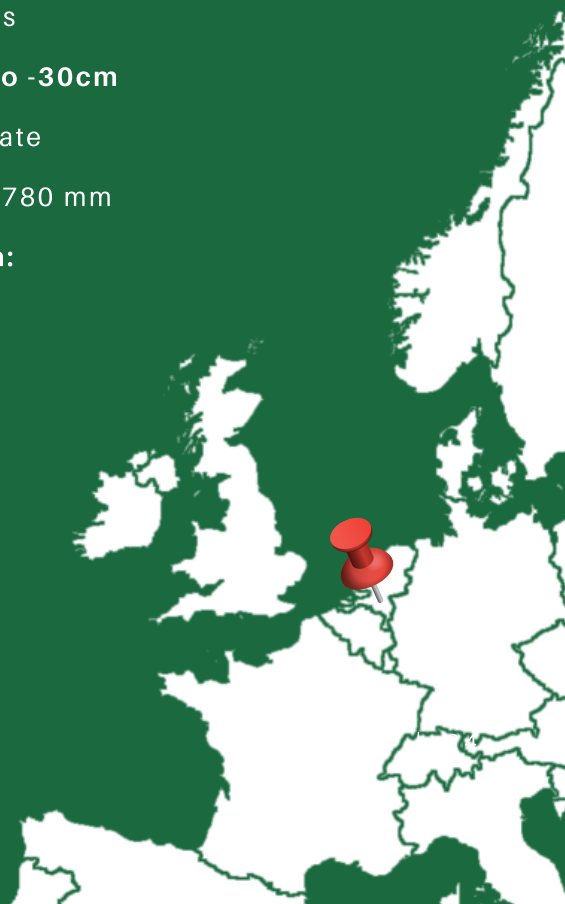
Crop type: Miscanthus

Water level: -100cm to -30cm

Climate type: Temperate

Total annual rainfall: 780 mm

Target CO2 reduction:



CHALLENGES

No challenges expected except having a good monitoring of the water level because *Miscanthus* does not grow at high water table and it can create anaerobic oxidation of the fresh organic matter. Nevertheless, summer inundation is not likely to occur in this site.

GOALS

- Growing biological crop of *Miscanthus* for substrate to grow biological mushrooms
- Harvesting *Miscanthus* once a year at the end of the winter, when biomass is dry : 15 ton

POTENTIAL BUSINESS MODELS

The farmer is taking care of the whole management and harvesting. He will then be able to reduce his costs for buying expensive biological biomass from abroad. Paludiculture cannot be applied here, as the water table cannot be raised very much and there is no peat soil.



PILOT SITE TIMELINE

To be completed