



BioRef 0602

Knowledge dissemination

Analysing the contribution of the Dutch Network on Biorefinery on information dissemination, knowledge transfer, and education

Interim survey
(Evaluation of the 1st Biorefinery.nl workshop)

R.W.R. Zwart (ECN)

JULY 2006



Summary

On June the 16th the first “workshop on the possibilities of biorefinery concepts for the industry” was held, bringing together different Dutch stakeholders, and addressing common as well as conflicting technical and market issues with regard to biorefinery opportunities. The first-of-a-kind workshop provided a forum for a technical review of state-of-the-art research leading to the development of biorefinery technologies.

The workshop revealed that although the knowledge to overcome existing technological barriers in the development of biorefinery concepts is available in the Netherlands, real initiatives as well as a commonly accepted Biorefining Vision – and related Technology Roadmap (Strategic Research Agenda) – are lacking.

At the end of the workshop participants were asked to evaluate the workshop on the basis of a survey. In general, the workshop met the expectations of the participants and was evaluated well. Although there was a broad variety in subjects presented and discussed, limiting the amount of (new) detailed information provided, it is important to become aware of specific problems in specific industries. The workshop also provided new networking opportunities.

The main conclusion, however, was that currently a commonly accepted vision and strategy on biorefinery for the Netherlands is missing. The defining of such a vision/strategy is seen as important to quicken the implementation of (future) biorefinery technologies.

Contents

Summary	2
Contents	3
1. Introduction	4
2. Initial survey	5
2.1 Did the workshop meet your expectations and did you receive new information of specific subjects	5
2.2 What was the main purpose for participating in the workshop	6
2.3 How satisfied were you with specific aspects of the workshop	6
2.4 Are you interested in participating in the Biorefinery.nl network	7
2.5 Conclusions	7

1. Introduction

On June the 16th the first “workshop on the possibilities of biorefinery concepts for the industry” was held, bringing together different Dutch stakeholders, and addressing common as well as conflicting technical and market issues with regard to biorefinery opportunities. The first-of-a-kind workshop provided a forum for a technical review of state-of-the-art research leading to the development of biorefinery technologies.

The workshop revealed that although the knowledge to overcome existing technological barriers in the development of biorefinery concepts is available in the Netherlands, real initiatives as well as a commonly accepted Biorefining Vision – and related Technology Roadmap (Strategic Research Agenda) – are lacking, as reported in the official minutes¹ of the workshop.

At the end of the workshop participants were asked to evaluate the workshop on the basis of a survey. The results of this survey are discussed in this report.

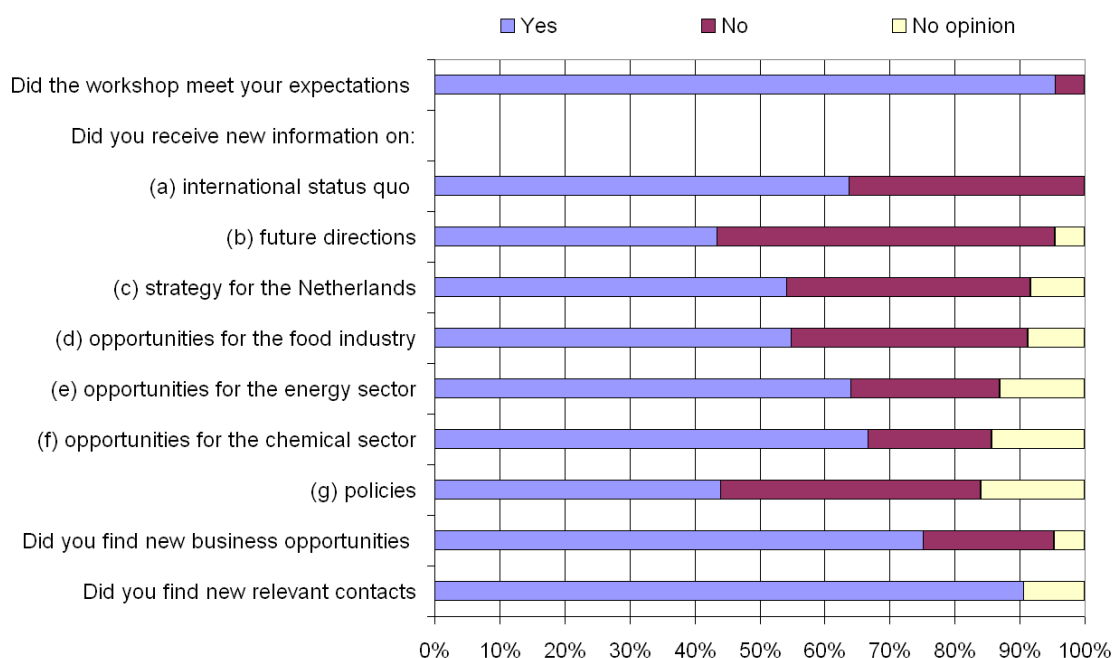
¹ Annevelink, E., De Jong, E., Van Ree, R., Zwart, R.W.R.: *First workshop in the possibilities of biorefinery concepts for the industry*, BioRef 0601, July 2006

2. Initial survey

The evaluation survey contained several questions and was intended to analyse whether or not the workshop was of benefit to the participant. The response on the questions is presented graphically for each question in the following paragraphs. Additional comments provided on specific questions are included as well.

2.1 Did the workshop meet your expectations and did you receive new information of specific subjects

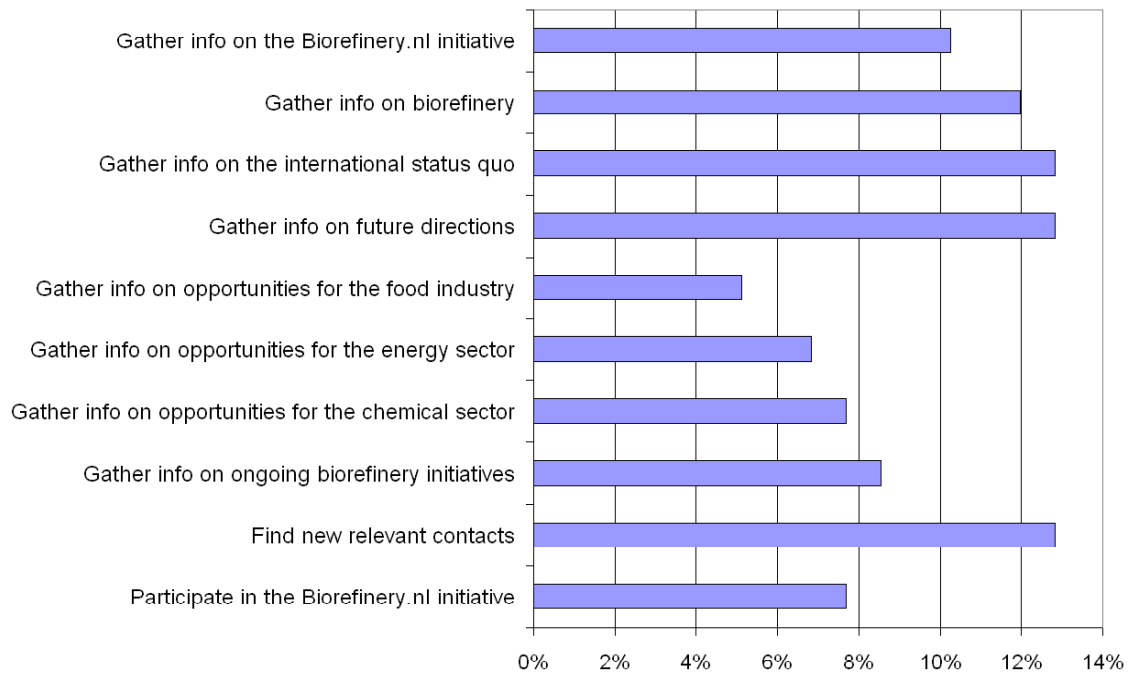
The survey focussed on general questions with regards to meeting the expectations, finding new business opportunities and finding new relevant contacts, as well as on finding out on what specific subjects (relevant) new information was provided in the different sections of the workshop.



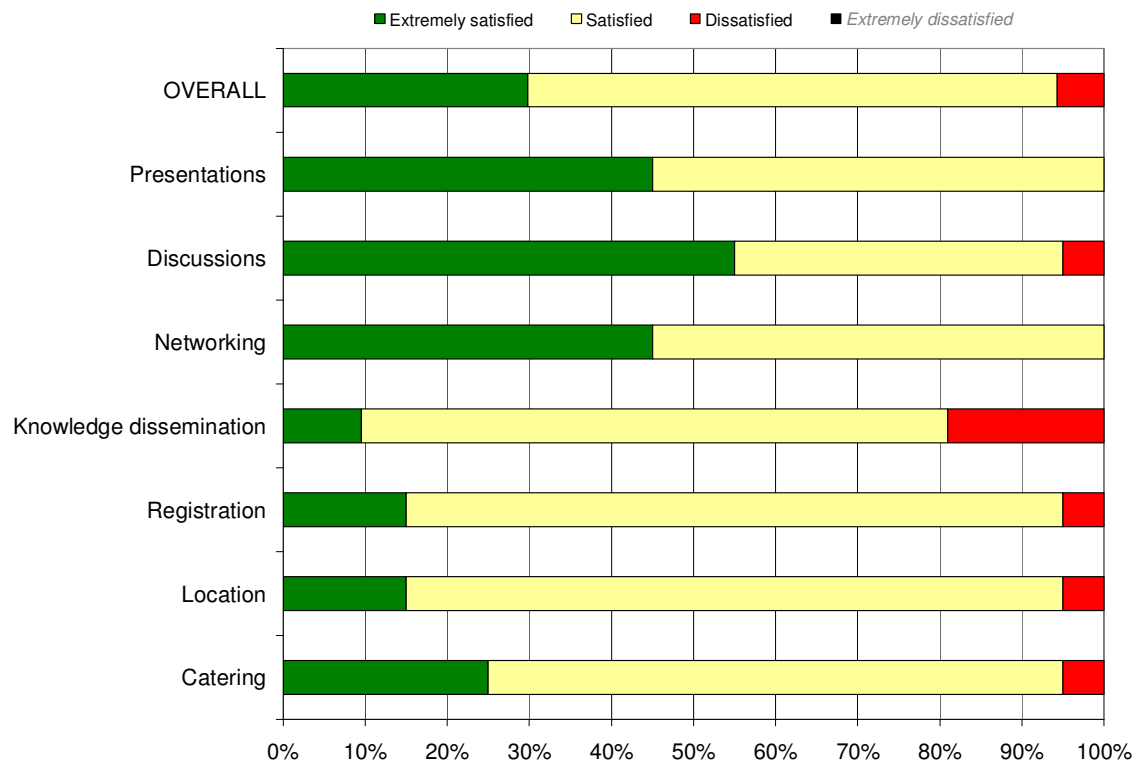
The workshop in general met the expectations, although several participants mentioned that there was a rather broad variety in subjects presented and discussed, as a result of which the amount of new and detailed information received on specific subjects was limited. Future workshops on biorefinery might be restricted to more specific subjects, although from networking point of view as well as from becoming aware of specific problems in specific industries the broad framework of this initial workshop was prized.

As it was the 1st workshop the focus was mainly on presenting ongoing initiatives and discuss the problems associated with them. A commonly accepted vision or strategy for the Netherlands on biorefining was still lacking. It was indicated by several attendants that the definition of such a vision or strategy should be the main subject of debate in a following biorefinery workshop or meeting.

2.2 What was the main purpose for participating in the workshop



2.3 How satisfied were you with specific aspects of the workshop



2.4 Are you interested in participating in the Biorefinery.nl network

On the question of whether or not participants in the workshop were interested in participating in the Biorefeinery.nl network as well, 65% of the respondents indicated that they might have an interest in participating. Whether or not parties would actually participate will however depend on the involvement required, the benefits gained and the subjects discussed. Several respondents gave the advice to perhaps restrict the scope of the network or, alternatively, define specific subtasks within the network.

2.5 Conclusions

In general, the workshop met the expectations of the participants and was evaluated well. Although there was a broad variety in subjects presented and discussed, limiting the amount of (new) detailed information provided, it is important to become aware of specific problems in specific industries. The workshop also provided new networking opportunities. The main conclusion should be that currently a commonly excepted vision and strategy on biorefinery for the Netherlands is missing. The defining of such a vision/strategy is seen as important to quicken the implementation of (future) biorefinery technologies.