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Press Release Grassification Demo

The online Grassification demo day 'Bermen maaien = Grondstoffen oogsten' took place on 24 June. The webinar discussed opportunities and challenges to deploy roadside grass clippings within a transition to a circular bio-based economy.

The Grassification project focuses on processing roadside grass clippings into raw materials and new bio-based materials. The webinar was therefore structured according to the different steps in the value chain:

- How will hedge management be done in the future?
- What does a modified cutting tool look like?
- How are the grass clippings pre-treated?
- Can a roadside fiber be given a raw material declaration?

How this works in practice was clarified by informative videos: An adapted mowing head to achieve better quality fibers was demonstrated in Maldegem, the pressing of the clippings into juice and fibers was illustrated by Sander Lybaert from Releaf in Drogen, Nathalie Devriendt from ProNatura - Innec took the viewer through the drying and sifting step at the site in Pamel.

Experts such as Bart Rooms (ILVA), Victor Verlinden (Circular Matters), Joke Van Cuyck (OVAM) and Elke Delbare (Haviland) explained in more detail how such a value chain can be further rolled out in the future. The webinar ended with a debate between the various speakers, supplemented by Johan De Beule of Pro Natura and Jelle Van den Berghe, nature adviser to Flemish minister Zuhair Demir.

The audience at home also took the opportunity to ask questions to the various speakers. From the reactions of both the audience and the speakers, it can be concluded that there is enthusiasm to get to work with the verge clippings and that solutions can be found for the challenges that still exist, both at the logistical and policy level.

The webinar took place in the context of the Interreg Grassification project and the 'Herbruikbare berm' project financed by the province of Vlaams-Brabant.

Would you like to rewatch the webinar? You can do that via this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=do_fKhV9bMg