

## FARM-SCALE ANAEROBIC DIGESTION THE BENEFITS AND THE BARRIERS

Farmers are being encouraged to establish anaerobic digestion (AD) plants on their farms. However, the current support mechanisms for AD appear insufficient to bring about the wide-scale adoption of this energy-from-waste technology which is widely used elsewhere in the EU.

Evidence suggests that AD can enhance the management of livestock farms through improved slurry management, reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, generation of on-farm energy and reduced watercourse pollution risk due to improved nutrient release from digestate. However, economic viability is linked to capital cost of installation. If farm-scale AD is to become a viable option for livestock farms, attention must be given to innovative digester design, improved feedstock handling, ease of plant manufacture and installation, process control and effective energy generation from biogas.

In order to explore these issues, the Royal Agricultural Society of England and partners have organised a Workshop to be held at Walford College, Shropshire. The Workshop, which includes a visit to the College Farm AD plant, will provide you with up-to-date, practical information on affordable, farm-scale AD and its potential economic and environmental contribution to the farm business. It will also provide an opportunity for you to talk to industry experts, voice your views on perceived barriers to the adoption of AD on farms and suggest what actions would encourage you to establish an AD plant on your farm.

**Richard Gueterbock - Trustee, Royal Agricultural Society of England**

### PROGRAMME

- 10.00 Coffee, Walford College
- 10.30 Welcome/Opening Remarks  
Chair: Richard Gueterbock
- 10.40 AD - The Barriers & Benefits  
*Dr Nina Sweet, AD Technical Specialist, WRAP*
- 11.00 Case Study 1  
*Trevor Lea, Farmer, Whitchurch, Shropshire*
- 11.20 Case Study 2  
*Russell Mulliner, MD, Marches Biogas Ltd*
- 11.40 Coffee Break
- 12.00 Case Study 3  
Jon Parry, Walford College
- 12.20 Visit to Walford AD Plant
- 13.15 Working Lunch, Questions & Round-Table Discussion
- 14.15 Summing up by Chairman
- 14.30 Close