



**Agricultural
biomass frontier
Industry insights
&
Opportunities**

Florian Ilias, UK

Agricultural biomass

Crop residues

- Wheat straw, corn stover
- Rice husks
- Sugar cane bagasse
- Soybean hull

Animal waste

- Manure, slurry
- Bedding material

Biomass crops



Conventional **energy** crops

Why grow biomass crops?

What about food?

Is this environmentally friendly?



- 45% of EU maize is grown for Ethanol.
- 50% of US soybeans are converted to biodiesel.
- 55% of sugarcane in Brazil is cultivated for Ethanol.



Grown on prime food land

Requiring substantial amounts of fertiliser & irrigation

Renewable **biomass** crops

No pesticides, no herbicides

No fertiliser, no irrigation

Short rotation trees

- Willow, Poplar
- Eucalyptus
- Paulownia

Grasses

- Switchgrass
- Napier grass
- Miscanthus



Renewable biomass crops

No pesticides, no herbicides

No fertiliser, no irrigation

Short rotation trees

- Willow, Poplar
- Eucalyptus
- Paulownia

Grasses

- Switchgrass
- Napier grass
- Miscanthus

- Perennial
- Little maintenance
- Less productive fields
- No special machinery



In continental climates **Miscanthus x giganteus** grass grows prolifically.



What Terravesta does

- High performance varieties
- Planting material
- Establishment & machinery
- Biomass buyback contracts
- Biomass supply contracts
- Logistics

Miscanthus is a perennial **biomass crop**.

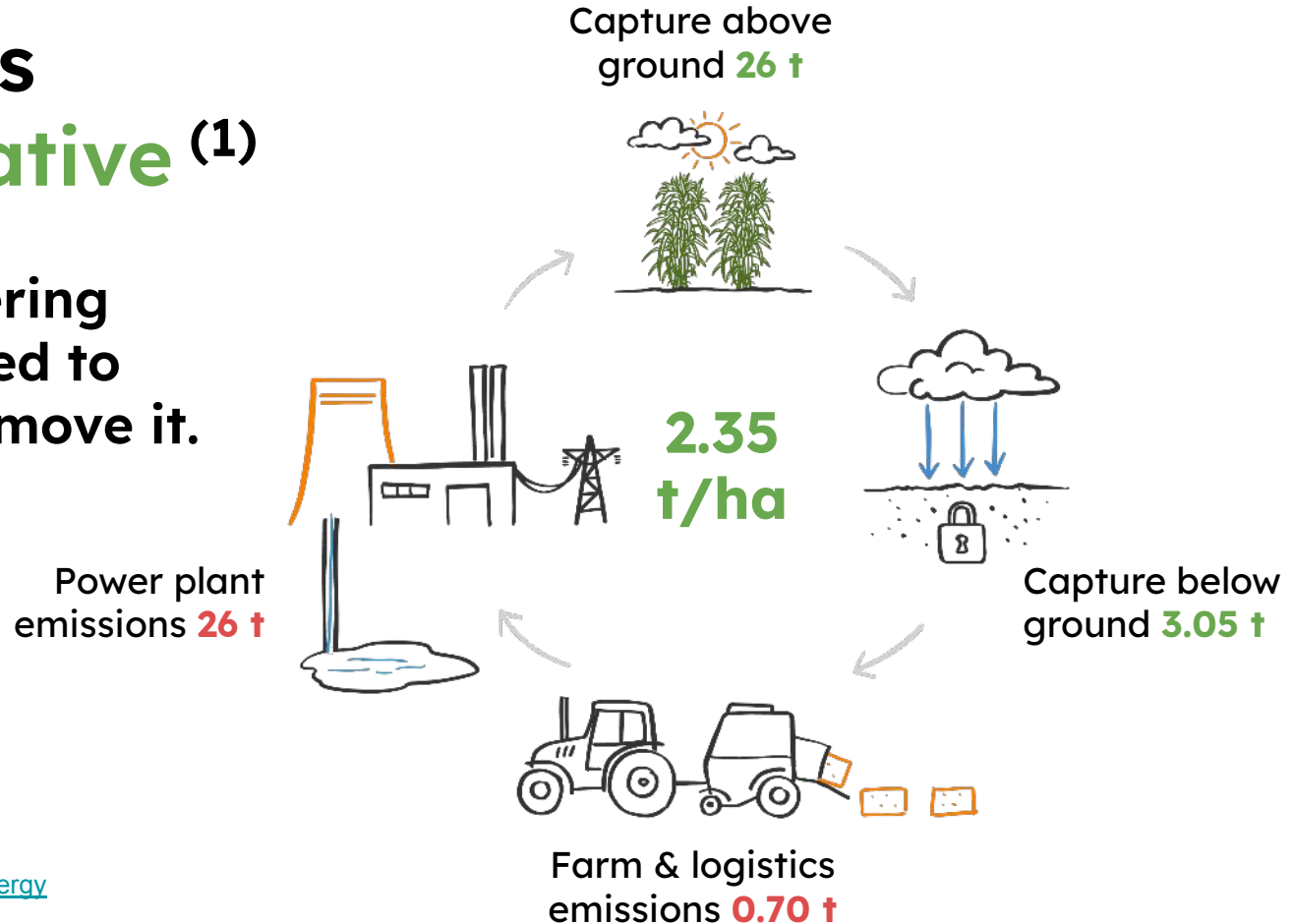
CLICC - Circular, Low-Input, Carbon Crop

- Regrows 4 metres every year
- Increases soil organic matter
- No irrigation, no fertilizer
- Requires little cultivation
- Stores net 2.35t CO₂ / ha / year
- Drought, flood resistant
- 14-20 t dry mass / ha
- 20+ productive years



Miscanthus is net Co2 negative (1)

even when considering
how much is emitted to
plant, collect, and move it.





Miscanthus field in late winter prior to harvest



Harvesting dry biomass with a forage harvester



Baling & stripping after harvest into square bales



Transport to the user, approx 22 t / truck

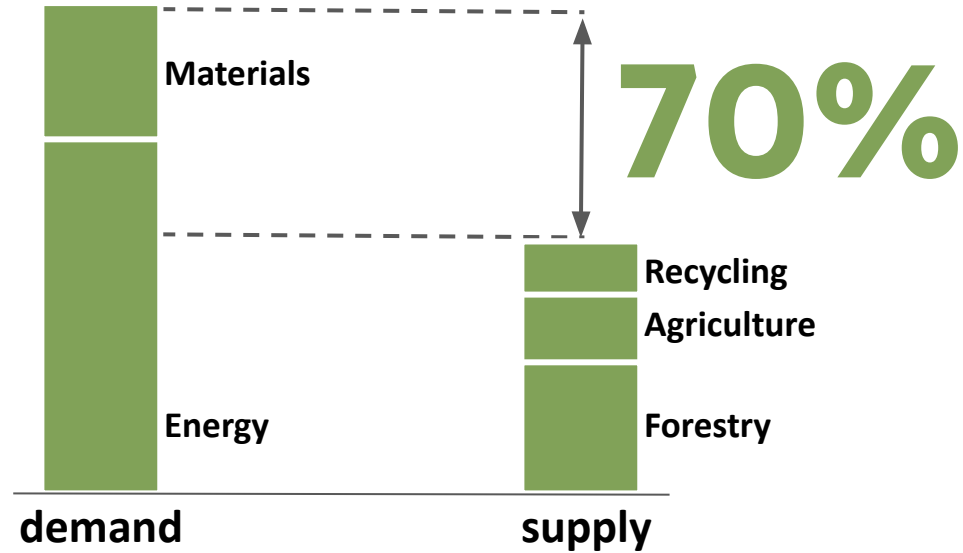
Biomass demand

Increase since 2000 ⁽¹⁾

3x

Demand vs Supply

Gap by 2050 ⁽²⁾



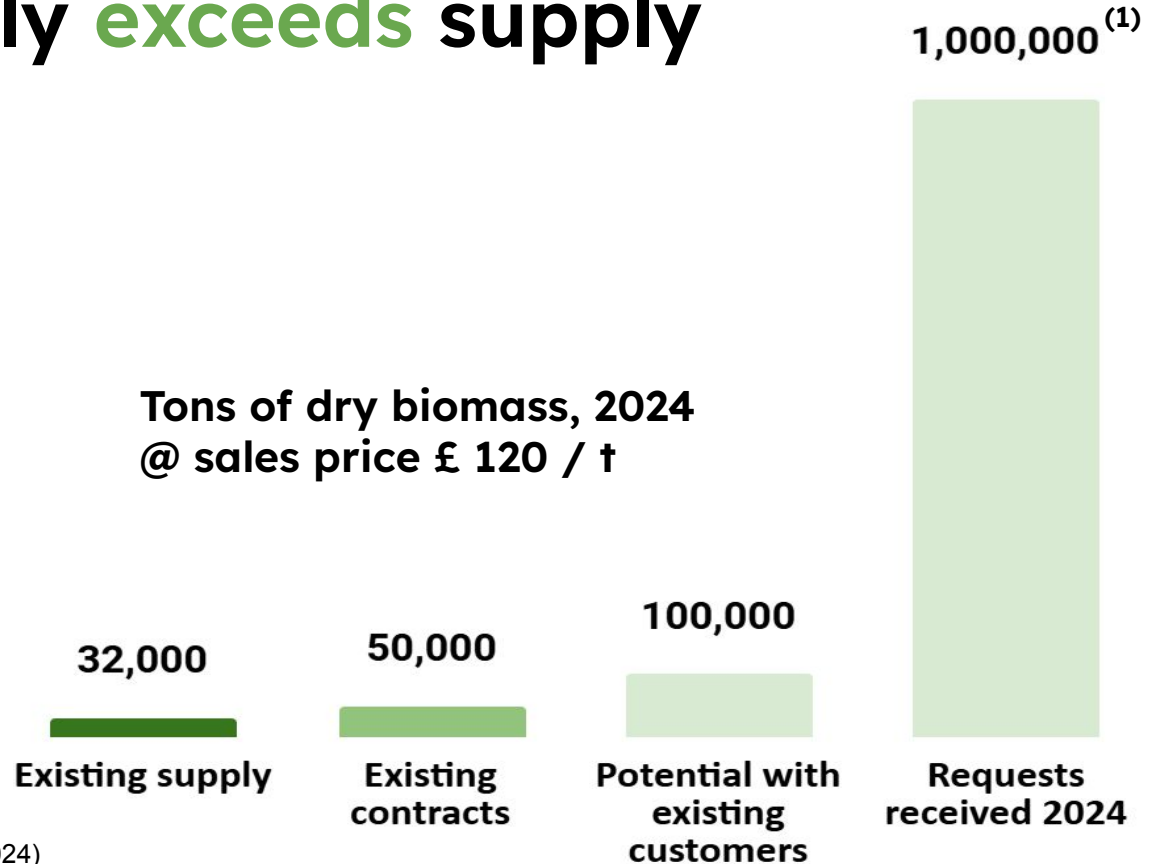
1 [European Environment Agency - The EU biomass puzzle](#)

2 [Material Economics by McKinsey & Company - EU biomass use in a net-zero economy](#), 2021 figures

Demand vastly exceeds supply

30x

of current
supply



Robotized seed-based planting



2007 - Wild varieties

Planting rate: 4-5 ha / day

People required: 4

Emergence rate: 48%

Scale: hundreds of hectares

Limited to short distance deliveries



2018 - ATHENA™

Planting rate: 3-4 ha / day

People required: 5

Emergence rate: 82%

Scale: hundreds of hectares

Limited to deliveries within Europe



2027 - Aphrodite 43™

Planting rate: 10 ha / day

People required: 1-2

Emergence rate: 94%

Scale: tens of thousands of hectares

Allows worldwide expansion

Animal bedding

- Naturally dry
- Highly absorbent
- Does not degrade fast

Use case US: “Manure as a service”

- Rent land from chicken farmer
- Deliver fresh bedding material
- Collect manure from farm
- Send to biogas plant
- Press digestate into pellets and sell as fertiliser



Heating glasshouses

- Naturally dry
- High calorific value
- Little ash residues

Use case UK: “Reverse carbon”

- Grow on marginal land
- Heat the vegetable glass house
- Put biochar back to the soil to improve its long-term fertility
- Get paid in carbon credits

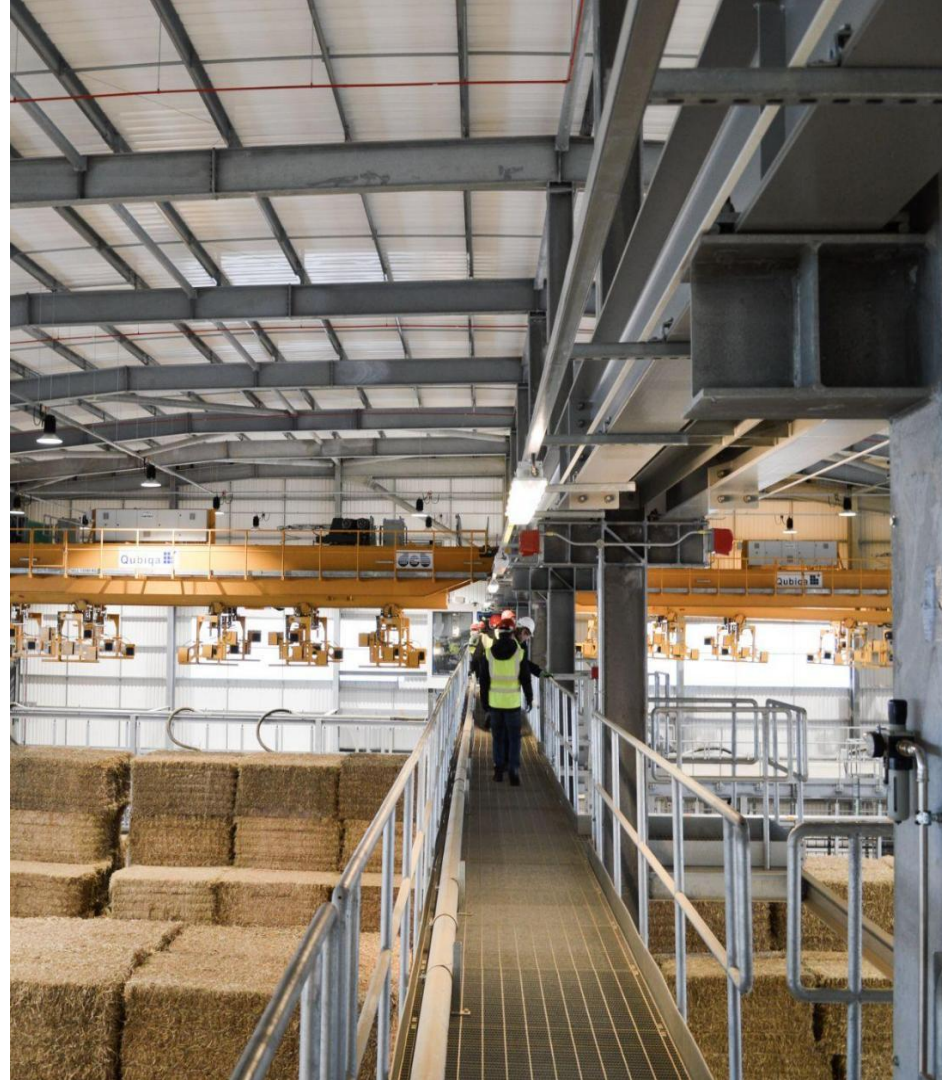


Electricity generation

- Naturally dry
- High calorific value
- Little ash residues

Use case UK: “Renewable energy”

- Grow on marginal land
- Deliver to power station
- Blend with straw for better burn rate
- 25% less maintenance, higher up-time



Peat substitute

- Suppresses weeds
- Maintains moisture
- Locally sourced

Use case DE: “Re-peat”

- Rent land from nearby farmers
- Dedicated processing facility
- Reduce use of peat
- Sell growth medium at higher margins



Wind break

- Grows fast and tall
- Drought resistant
- Very dense

Use case EG: “**Ismailia strawberries**”

- Plant at the border of fields to shield from warm winds
- Cut at the end of the growth season
- Chip and use as mulch and growth medium



TiO₂

- High lignin content
- High calorific value
- Low chloride content

Use case EG: “Titanium dioxide”

- Use as coal substitute
- Reduce CO₂ emissions
- No change to production process



Non woven fabric

- Medium sized fibre length
- Easy to process
- High availability

Horizon Europe: “FibraVita”

- Use of low-impact feedstocks
- Cellulose from non-toxic solvents
- Spin into microfibrillated cellulose (MFC)



Low carbon biogas

- High water content (green)
- Acceptable biogas potential
- Negative CO2 footprint

Use case UK: “FibraVita”

- Cut green once or twice a year
- Cut into short chips
- Put to clamping
- Blend to reduce CO2 footprint
- Sell low carbon footprint biogas at higher margins



Xylooligosaccharides

- High fiber content
- High lignin content

Use case UK: “XOS sugars”

- Extract sugars from biomass for animal feed, and prebiotic dietary fibres
- Sell lignin and residual fibres
- Convert to biochar for use in steel production



Woodcrete

- Very sturdy canes
- Simple processing
- Very low moisture content

Use case UK: “Ecobrix”

- Bond with cement
- High margin low-carbon footprint product
- Earn CO2 credits for long term storage

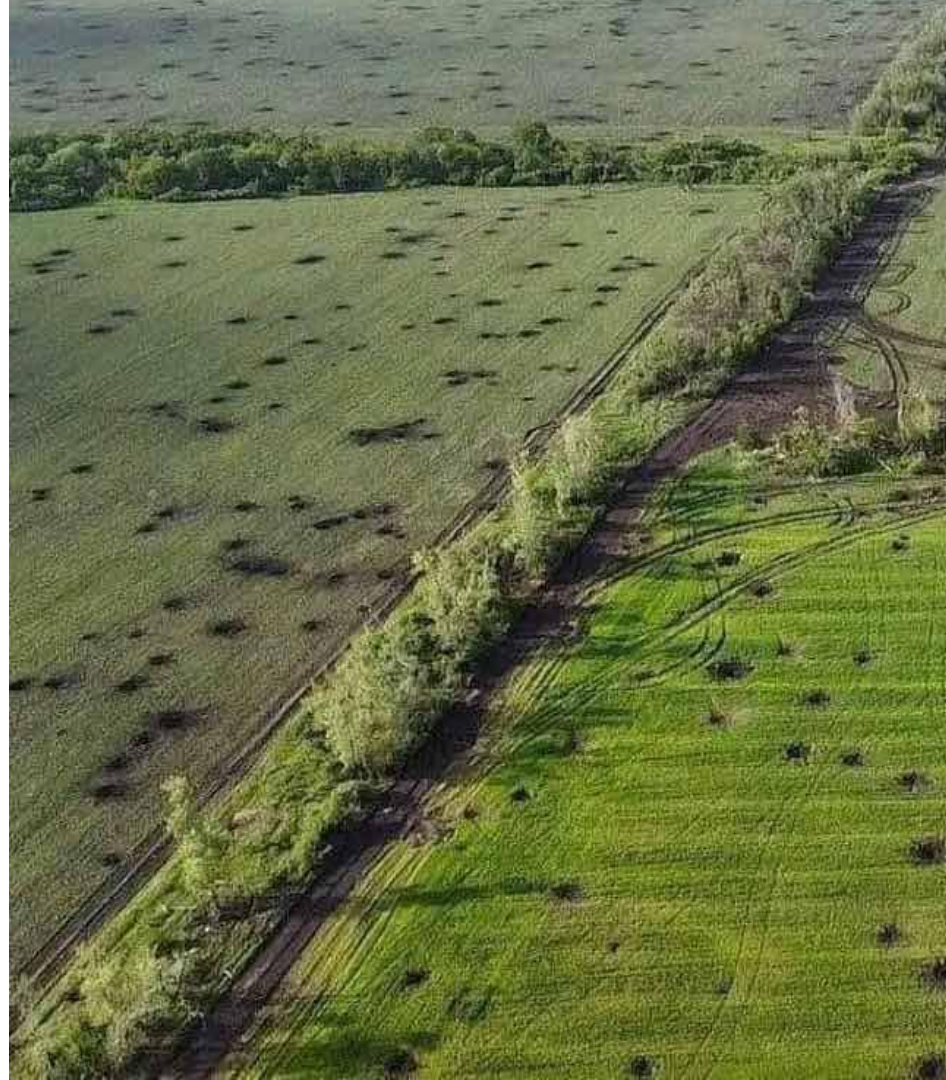


Phytoremediation

- Proven to clean the soil from heavy metals and toxic contaminants

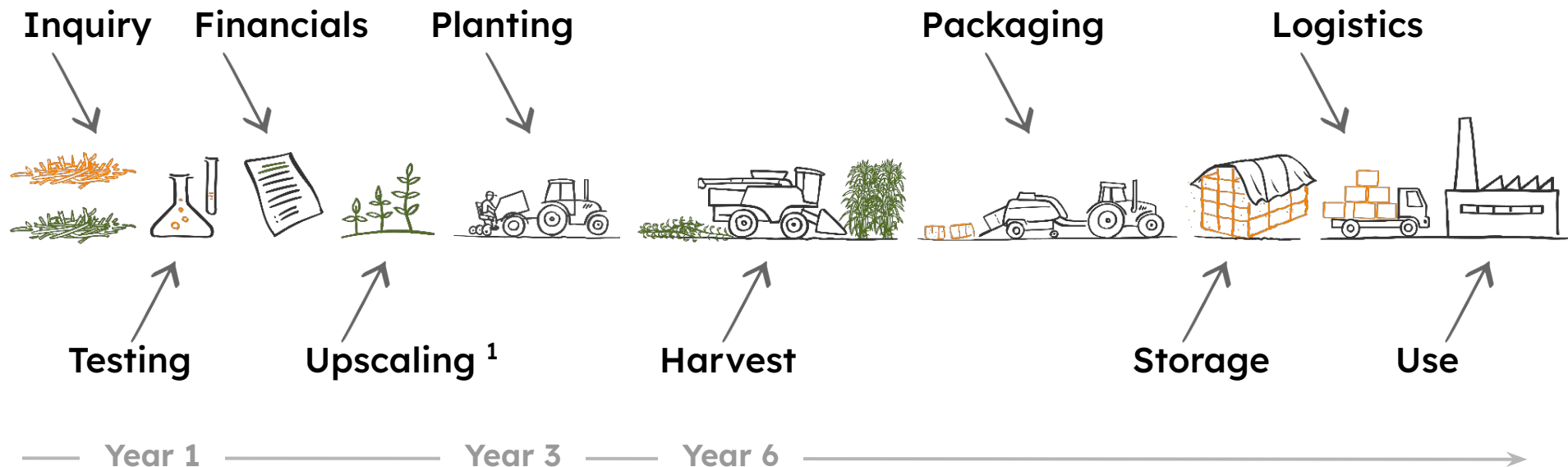
Use case UKR: “Energy crop”

- Plant on contaminated soils to remove contamination
- Use for heating and electricity generation
- Provide income opportunities to returning decommissioned soldiers without farming knowledge



No spot market

Miscanthus isn't traded—It's cultivated on demand.



Biomass grown on **less productive land**.

- Idle, under-utilised, abandoned
- Distant, oddly shaped
- Subject to erosion, salinization, flooding
- Stony, less fertile, low on organic content
- Polluted

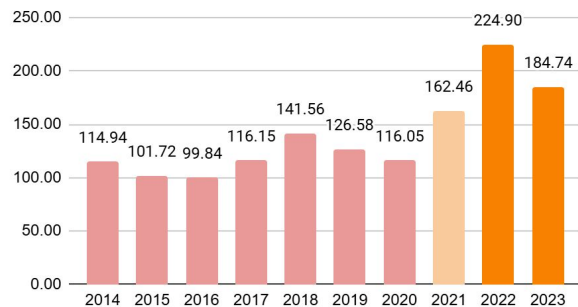
**Food, carbon, countryside - farmers do it all,
and need **income to keep doing it**.**



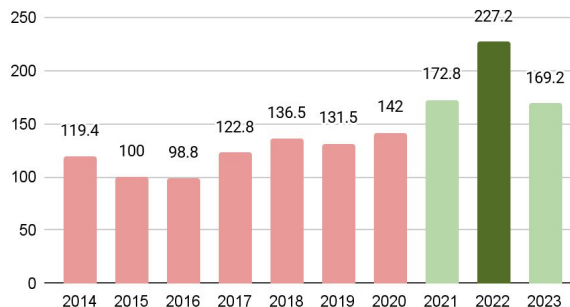
Biomass crops: ditching the high-input trap

Low yielding land

UK barley prices GBP



UK wheat prices GBP



Market prices with no return / loss for grower

UK Miscanthus

	£ / ha
Gross output	1,300
Transport	172
Cutting, baling	310
Gross margin	818

Average UK farm margin by soil type¹:

- Average **183** £ / ha
- High **363** £ / ha

1

Strutt & Parker 2023

2

John Nix Pocketbook 2024, statista.com

The next revolution?

Mechanical age

Mass production with machines

Energy age

Progress with oil, gas and electricity

Information & AI age

Digitally connected and smarter world

Farming renewable biomaterials?

Redefine energy, materials and pollution



Download & contact



info@terravesta.com

