

Bio2AN 14/02/2019 – Scion

Bio2AN was a travelling conference, held in New Zealand and Australia (Rotorua, Brisbane and Geelong). The New Zealand event was organised by the Institute for Bioplastics and Biocomposites (IfBB) and Scion, and was supported by the Bio2AN project through the German Ministry of Education and Research. IfBB presenters included researchers from Hochschule Hannover, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Fraunhofer WKI and VAUDE.

The one-day event, held at Scion, aimed to foster synergies between research and industry in Germany and New Zealand in the area of the Bioeconomy, with a focus on bioplastics and biocomposites. More than 80 participants attended the conference, including representatives from NZ industry and academia.

The morning comprised of presentations from both Scion and IfBB addressing circular Bioeconomy concepts, including processing of bioplastics, end-of-life options, and sustainability. In the afternoon, we held interactive sessions related to Bioeconomy policy perspectives for Germany and New Zealand, and the introduction of bioplastics and biocomposites in market applications. These interactive workshops provided an opportunity to discuss synergies and opportunities between Germany and New Zealand, as well as key challenges in adopting Bioeconomy principles. Outcomes from the workshops were as follows:

Bioeconomy policy workshop

Bioeconomy strategies for Germany and the EU were presented, which are structured and have various supporting governmental initiatives. NZ, in contrast, does not have a Bioeconomy strategy with supporting initiatives, although NZ has signed up to various global agreements to lower carbon emissions and protect the environment.

Participants observed that it is difficult to plan, and that SMEs need to work collaboratively to create change. Some suggested a communication channel to share information and to learn from each other. The challenges and opportunities mentioned can be a good starting point to initiate some cooperation between New Zealand and Germany.

Industry workshop

VAUDE, a German SME, presented insights from their experience of introducing biobased products in their product line. Scion presented the NZ perspective, including products that have been developed at Scion, such as fruit labels, biodegradable clips for vineyards, and fish boxes made from polylactide foam.

The workshop participants identified key challenges to overcome for the adoption of biobased products:

- Seasonal variation in feedstocks from renewable resources
- Lack of knowledge about which bioplastic is the most suitable for the application
- No sustainability standards
- Availability and scale up of bioplastics
- Price
- How to communicate with the customer

Some opportunities were also identified:

- Reducing CO₂ footprint
- Promoting customer loyalty
- Better packaging preservation for fruit availability

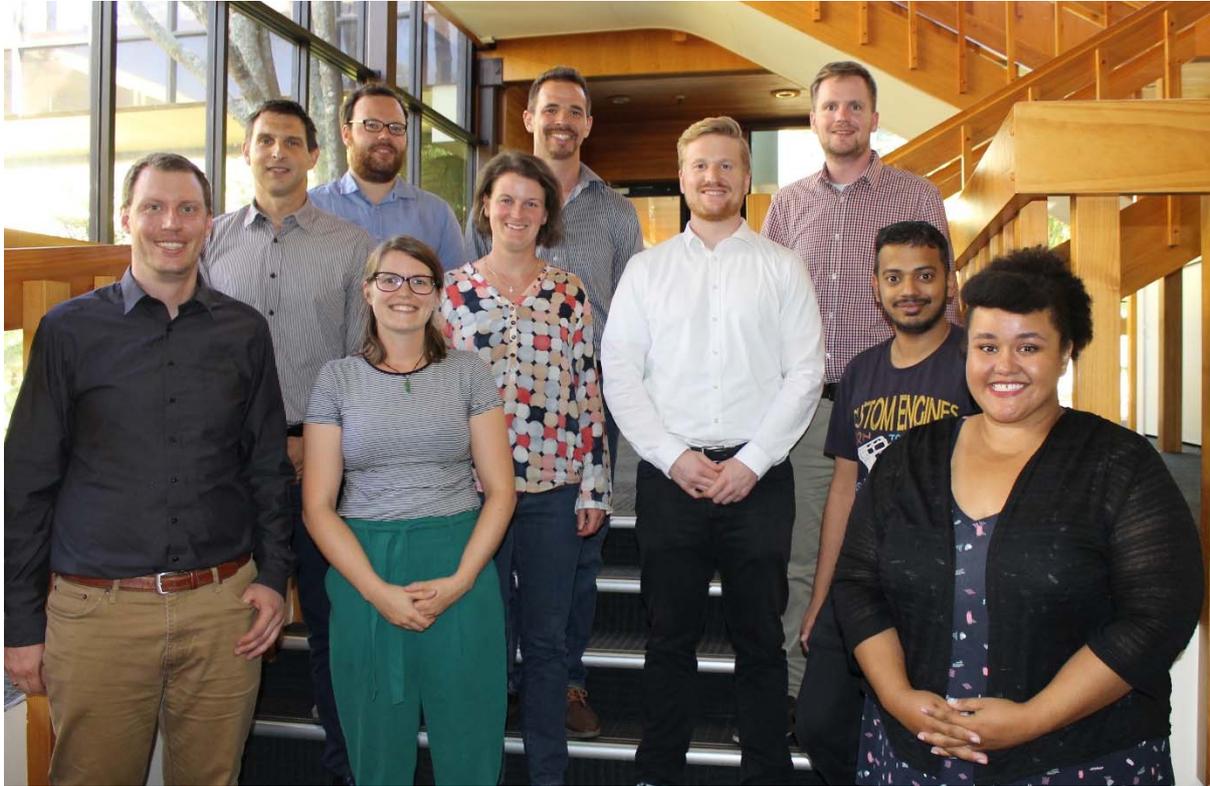
Some quotes from the evaluation of the Bio2AN event (provided by IfBB):

- “Very impressed what Scion is doing. Hope to collaborate further”
- “Well worth such an event at least on a biannual basis”
- “Stimulating *and informative*”

Bio2AN was also held in Brisbane (USQ, 19/02/2019) and Geelong (Deakin University, 22/02/2019). Further analysis of the workshop outcomes will be made available through the IfBB in the coming weeks. The next steps for Scion and the IfBB will be working together to develop cross-organisational research and development programmes to address the opportunities discussed during the workshop.

Slides from Bio2AN @ Scion are available here: <https://www.scionresearch.com/about-us/news-and-events/events/past-events/bioplastics-and-biocomposites-innovative-building-blocks-of-the-emerging-bioeconomy>

Photo of organising group:



L-R: René Bethmann (Vaude), Florian Graichen (Scion), Sebastian Spierling (IfBB), Helena Quilter (Scion), Carmen Arndt (IfBB), Marco Neudecker (IfBB), Julian Rickert (TUBS), Ole Hansen (Fraunhofer WKI), Venkateshwaran Venkatachalam (IfBB), Angeliqne Greene (Scion).