

What's Biomass Crop?

Originally written by : Shirou Suzuki
Manga production :
Kyoto Seika University Graduate School of Manga
Illustrated by : Ayayuki Kimiya

Delicious!

Why's sugarcane so sweet?

Well, it's sweet when you chew because it stores sugar in its stem!

pop

Wha!

The sugarcane family is under much attention these days as being biomass crop.

Biomass Crop?

Plants that grow renewable organic resources, such as these four.

- Erianthus** (relative to sugarcane)
- Jatropha**
- Miscanthus** (relative to a Susuki (a Japanese silver grass))
- Poplar**

What can you do with biomass crop?

After harvesting the plant,

- ① you can burn or generate electricity with it as an alternative to oil or coal
- ② or you can break it down to form material for chemical products such as plastic

So many uses!

And that isn't all!

Biomass crop is known for having a resilient characteristic, absorbing lots of CO₂.

You can grow me anywhere

Therefore plans are to plant them on land that cannot grow food crops, to grow material for fuel and plastic.

and they grow well despite poor soil or small amounts of fertilizer.

But I heard oil is currently the predominant source of fuel and plastic

That is true.

Oil is used even for the glasses I'm using.

mine too!

By using oil we increase CO₂ in the atmosphere. If we use biomass crop instead of oil, then we don't increase CO₂ and we help prevent global warming.

Sounds good for the environment!

It's good for the Earth then.

We should hurry up and start doing it this way!

Biomass crop is just starting to get attention, still in its research stage.

We are continuing to research biomass crop at the RISH, studying their behaviour and genes.

Well yes, but...

In decades to come, all of our plastic and medicine may be made from biomass crop.

I hope that it becomes a cool and wealthy Earth

Yes