

## **Greetings to the "Spearhead 2014" competition prize-giving ceremonies in Lahti 13.5.2014**

Our cooperation with Savonia University of Applied Sciences has made it possible to construct the Pilot research station for testing this novel biorefinery concept.

With this Pilot various biomasses can be tested in ecological and economically feasible fashion. The first results from Savon Sellu fluting factory during two months have been documented as a proof of successful operation of this method for organic waste treatment. Resulting commodities include bioenergy, chemicals and fertilizers. The processes can be enhanced starting from the reactions carried out by microbial communities in Nature. One inspiration for our approach has been the human and ruminant digestion.

Designing the ABOWE Pilot on the basis of prior innovations has brought up the need for educating new specialists for biorefinery operations. Currently, as the bioeconomics field is opening, the universities of applied sciences in our country will hopefully consequently open up opportunities for the youth in Finland to act for better futures. As like one of the more than 50 young professionals involved in the ABOWE Pilot plant construction formulated it: "This is a self-motivating project". I will thank for my part and on behalf of the Finnoflag Oy for all cooperation in this project, and for this valuable recognition for the project team!

In Tokyo on the eve of the Biotech Japan 2014 conference,

Elias Hakalehto

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