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Czech Partners of the EMBEDED Project Presented the First Results of Biochar Research in Portugal

From **16 to 18 June 2026**, the **2nd General Assembly of the EMBEDED project** took place in **Braga, Portugal**. The meeting, hosted by the **University of Minho**, brought together representatives of all project partners from across Europe to review the project's progress and coordinate the next stages of implementation.

The Czech Republic was represented by experts from all partner institutions involved in the project: Mendel University in Brno, Agrovýzkum Rapotín Ltd., and Agricultural Research, Ltd. Representatives of Agricultural Research attending the meeting were **Ing. Antonín Kintl, Ph.D.** and **Ing. Martina Veselá**.

During the three-day meeting, leaders of the individual work packages presented the progress achieved so far, reviewed the implementation of planned activities, and outlined the work schedule for the upcoming reporting period. The General Assembly also provided an opportunity for scientific discussion and coordination of future experiments among the project partners.

On behalf of the Czech research team, **Prof. Jiří Kučerík** presented the latest results on the utilization of agricultural residues for biochar production. His presentation focused on the tested feedstocks, their properties, the biochar production process, prepared experimental sites, and the schedule of livestock experiments. Preliminary results from the completed trials were also introduced and will be further evaluated and interpreted during the next phase of the project.

"One of the greatest benefits of international project meetings is the opportunity to exchange research results across multidisciplinary teams and jointly develop solutions that can have a real impact on agricultural practice. Within the EMBEDED project, we are focusing on the efficient utilization of agricultural residues and their conversion into high-value products that can improve soil quality while contributing to climate change mitigation," said **Ing. Antonín Kintl, Ph.D.** from Agricultural Research, Ltd.

The programme also included a visit to **SOGRAPE**, one of the project's industrial partners. At the vineyard, participants were introduced to the company's approach to soil management, sustainable viticulture, and the efficient use of agricultural by-products. These principles closely reflect the objectives of the EMBEDED project, which connects research institutions, industry, and agricultural practice to develop innovative pathways for converting agri-food residues into valuable resources.

The EMBEDED project aims to develop and demonstrate alternative business models for transforming agricultural and agri-food residues into biochar. Biochar offers significant potential for long-term carbon sequestration, improving soil properties, and promoting more sustainable farming systems. At the same time, it supports the development of shorter, more resilient, and sustainable value chains based on the principles of the circular economy.

The second General Assembly confirmed that the project is progressing according to schedule and is already delivering promising results. These achievements represent an important step towards the wider application of biochar in agriculture and more efficient management of biological residues, supporting the transition to a more sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural sector.

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