

Raw material Maize straw – Agriculture as production partner

Maize straw is a residue of harvesting maize grain. However, this residue has a very low nutritional value and it is not suitable to be used as a fuel because. Furthermore, it is not storable after the grain harvest due to its high moisture content. For these reasons, it is left on the field, a worldwide unused resource.

CORMO has recognised the potential of maize straw, for industrial utilization. In collaboration with agricultural contractors, CORMO has developed and put into practice a harvesting process that meets the requirements for large scale practical implementation:

- The process does not compromise the grain production. It can be carried out using standard, robust harvesting machines.
- The stems are cut standing on the field within 1-3 months after the grain harvest. As a result, the material is not contaminated with stones and soil. Mulching of the straw can be dispensed.
- Because only the stalks below the first cob are used in the CORMO-process, grain maize remains a humus-positive culture.

Establishing a production of TEFA and BABS requires a close cooperation between the raw material suppliers and the processor. The agricultural partners can be remunerated for the following services:

- 1.** A compensation is paid to the farmer, for the removal of the stems. This is a direct income to the farmer, without incurring related costs.
- 2.** The harvest of the stems and their transport to the processing site are remunerated using standard commercial terms. Agricultural contractors can generate additional income in the off-season.
- 3.** Other services can include infrastructure (e.g. processing and storage site, electricity, shared use of loaders, etc.) as

