Hubertus Heil visits the Energy Research Center

By Jörg Kleinert

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Wierther energy mix with a global touch

The project is clear: In Wierthe, on a former sugar factory and today's solar park site, a so-called "Integrated Energy Farm" has been established. The International Research Center for Renewable Energy (IFEEP) was founded in 1999 as a nonprofit research organization and supported by the United Nations by today's by director, Dr. Nasir El Bassam in Dedelsdorf (district Gifhorn) is responsible.

The aim of the project is to show that it is possible with the support of German innovative technologies to create a sound economic base, without violating the concept of sustainability and the economic cycle. "It is an instrument against poverty and flight," says El Bassam. The concept of "Integrated Energy Farm" is based on producing food and energy to be self-sufficient and sustainable in rural areas.

But IFEED also pursues a global approach. It would like to transport their concept to other countries. Initial successes already exist. Meanwhile, plans have been carried out to install IEF in several countries such as Spain, Bulgaria and Iran. Inspired by these considerations the bioenergy village in Jühnde at Göttingen was created.

"We need help, volunteers alone can’t accomplish it" El Bassam said. The main problem: IFEED lacks money. And so El Bassam invited on Tuesday afternoon the SPD Vice-president Hubertus Heil, for a visit to Wierthe.

“The road to the world goes only through the federal government and Berlin", Vecheldes Mayor Ralf Werner said at the meeting. "I can promise nothing, certainly no money," said Heil. "But I can be the door opener." He wants to advertise in Niedersachsen, as well as knocking on doors at the federal level to make the Wierther energy project publicized. "You have to go through the door by yourself," said SPD politician, Hubertus Heil.