

Preface

This book provides a brief description primarily relating to the wood pellet when employed as an energy source. It is intended to be of use to a large variety of readers: teachers as well as those taught, entrepreneurs and investors, financiers, operators, plant manufacturers, and other interested parties. With this in mind, this book initially presents the development of the pellet market with its trade flows and price developments, the potential of any specific biomass for pelletization, combustion characteristics, various quality requirements for the pellets, and legal restraints. Using these chapters as a foundation, the technology of pelletization is then described by way of examples. After that, the energy recovery from pellets is discussed. The conclusion contains a comprehensive representation of the available fire and explosion protection measures, the cost-effectiveness of pellets in comparison with fossil energy sources and a brief look at relevant research projects.

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Besides my co-authors mentioned, other specialists were involved in the book's conception and its revision. Thus, by way of example, my associates Alexander Hirsch, Arthur Pinnecker, Hubert Schillings, Wolfgang Schlaug, Roland Paul, and Christoph Roos must be mentioned here. Further thanks are due to Mr. Manfred Pfeifer and Mr. Jens Neumeister for their valuable support.

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This book was created parallel to my primary professional activity. All the relationships, facts, and numbers quoted were researched and presented to the best of our knowledge and belief and with great care. Nevertheless, the presence of errors and imperfections cannot be ruled out and I would therefore be very grateful for any specific and productive comments, which will be taken into consideration for a possible revised edition.

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