

EU CAP Network workshop 'Circular bioeconomy – valorisation of forest by- products'

Flash report

Kouvola, Finland
26-27 March 2025

Innovation and Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI



Funded by
the European Union

This workshop gathered 80 participants from 23 Member States, including forest owners, researchers, advisors, industry, and others. They explored innovative approaches to utilising forestry by-products within the circular bioeconomy.

Participants examined the role of forestry residues — such as logging residues, sawmill by-products, and wood processing waste — in supporting the bioeconomy through:

- advanced integration of forest biomass in energy systems, bioplastics, and bio-based chemicals
- emerging initiatives in bioenergy despite challenges related to forest fragmentation and supply chains
- a shift toward higher-value applications, including biochemical and advanced materials
- using the principles of the circular bioeconomy and EU policies, such as the EU Bioeconomy Strategy. They are seen as key drivers of sustainable residue utilisation.

Field visits and poster sessions

Three site visits provided real-world insights into forestry by-product valorisation, showcasing innovations in bioenergy, biorefinery processes, and bioplastics development in Finland. The poster session featured 16 selected projects, demonstrating the synergies between research, industry, and forestry stakeholders.

Critical barriers and opportunities from the interactive discussions

- ensuring that solutions are cost-effective, easy to implement, and adaptable across different forestry contexts
- strengthening links between forest owners, researchers, processing industries, and end users to improve the value chains and market integration
- the need for tailored policies on all levels to support forest owners in leveraging residues beyond traditional timber production
- enhancing research funding and private-sector engagement to scale up bioproduct development

Key messages and takeaways

- aligning strategies, from EU to local scale, to support sustainable forestry, and the utilisation of residues and raw material from private forests
- bridging the value chain gap between forest owners and industries to drive innovation
- enhancing funding for piloting projects and market-ready solutions to enable scaling and innovation diffusion



Find out more [on the event webpage](#).