

Field visit information

Wednesday 26 March 2025

As part of the EU CAP Network workshop 'Circular bioeconomy - valorisation of forest by-products', three parallel field visits will be organised in the Kouvola region in the afternoon of Wednesday 26 March. They will present Finnish examples of traditional operating models, new innovations, and value chains related to forestry side streams.

The event is organised by the EU CAP Network, with a focus on innovation, knowledge exchange and EIP-AGRI. The field visits have been organised with the kind support of the Rural Network Support Unit of Finland.

Field visit 1: More than a century of forest innovation

The roots of the forest industry in south-east Finland go back to the 1870s. The region's first groundwood mills were established at that time, and since then there has been a significant forest industry in the region, including large mills. The forestry sector is still an important industry in the Kouvola region (Kymenlaakso) today, employing around 3,000 people.

During this field visit, we will learn what the forest industry is about today: how wood raw material is used as efficiently as possible in Finland, how side streams of the forest industry can be exploited, and what kinds of new innovations are being developed.

We will visit Stora Enso's large factory as well as a smaller company, EkoVilla, which produces environmentally friendly insulation from forestry by-products. EkoVilla products can also be used in building boards and asphalt.

We will also get acquainted with the Finnish campfire coffee tradition. A representative of Forest Owners Association Kymenlaakso will join us to reflect on the forest owner's perspective on the bioeconomy.

› Stora Enso - Anjalankoski mills

The [Anjalankoski mills](#) consist of a paper mill producing book paper, magazine paper, and 'improved newsprint' grades, and a board mill producing high-quality folding boxboard for consumer packaging, mechanical pulp, and energy.

- › Presentation of the biorefinery factory
- › How well are forest industry side streams utilised in Finland?
- › The importance of the forest sector for Finland

› Coffee break in the forest

Conversation by the campfire: Forest owners and the forest-based value chain. At [Youth Centre Ankkapurha](#).



› **Ekovilla Oy**

Ekovilla produces paper and paperboard blown insulation and insulating boards, which are suitable for cold environments. In addition, Ekovilla products are ecological and safe to use. Ekovilla also produces various fibres for asphalt and building boards, and biochar as part of the product mix.

Field visit 2: New value chains and innovations

Forestry and industrial side streams and recycled fibres are valuable raw materials. The University of Applied Sciences of South-Eastern Finland offers research with a national impact, to benefit companies and create new innovations.

During this field visit, we will learn about the university's activities and hear about an European Innovation Partnership (EIP) project on wood gasification and biochar production.

We will also visit Ecopulp Ltd, a company that produces a range of packaging materials from recycled paper.

We will get acquainted with the Finnish campfire coffee tradition. A representative of Forest Owners Association Kymenlaakso will join us to reflect on the forest owner's perspective on the bioeconomy.

› **Ecopulp Oy**

Ecopulp designs, develops and produces 3D-shaped packing materials made of recycled paper. Produced from recycled and renewable wood fibre, the Ecopulp package is environmentally friendly since it is biodegradable and 100% recyclable.

› **BioSampo bioeconomy and circular economy research centre**

BioSampo is one of the laboratories of the South-Eastern University of Applied Sciences. It carries out versatile testing and development work and offers its partners customised research, product development, piloting and analysis services. BioSampo has strong know-how and expertise in applied research and process development around circular economy and environmental themes.

- › Biochar potential and different process products
- › Biochar in acoustic panels and other products
- › Presentation of EIP-AGRI Operational Group project 'Wood2Biogas'.

› **Coffee break in the forest**

Conversation by the campfire: Forest owners and the forest-based value chain. At Youth Centre Ankkapurha.



Field visit 3: The role of private forest owners in the forest value chain

Private forest owners play an important role in the bioeconomy value chain. Private individuals own about 60% of Finland's forests, and there are more than 600,000 private forest owners. Forest owners are supported by private service providers and forest management associations.

During this field visit, we will learn about the services that are available to forest owners and the forest energy chain. Forest energy is an important source of forestry by-products. In total, 35% of heat in Finnish homes comes from forests. We will also hear about the multiple uses of willow. Did you know that willow can, for instance, be used in biofilters?

We will get acquainted with the Finnish campfire coffee tradition. A representative of the Forest Owners Association Kymenlaakso will join us to reflect on the forest owner's perspective on the bioeconomy.

› **KouMet Oy**

- › KouMet produces services for forest owners. In addition to traditional forest management services, the range of services also includes special felling and nature management services. Visiting the willow plantation harvesting site with the Risupeto energy wood harvester.

› **Carbons Oy**

Demonstration of the willow plantation and the use of willow for heat, biochar and biofilters.

- › Presentation of EIP-AGRI Operational Group project 'Fresh forest-chips for farm-level heat production'.

› **Coffee break in the forest**

Conversation by the campfire: Forest owners and the forest-based value chain. At Käyrälampi.

› **Keltakankaan lämpö Ltd.**

The role of municipalities is very important in circular bioenergy value chains. Finnish municipalities own the central heating plants, which provide heat for the communities and cities. Keltakankaan lämpö Ltd. is a recycled wood ecosystem, which is municipality-owned.

