



## Building new biomass supply chains for the bio-based economy

### Set up and foster cooperation mechanisms between agriculture, forestry and industry

Bio-based products can have a lower environmental and climate footprint than products based on non-renewable raw materials. There is a high potential for the production and use of renewable raw materials for industrial applications, notably the use of lignocellulose from agricultural and forestry residues, processing by-products/co-products and wastes, and industrial crops. New low-carbon, resource-efficient and sustainable value chains can be set up using this agricultural and forestry biomass to produce biochemicals, biomaterials and bioenergy. These chains will help diversifying the rural economy and strengthening the industrial base. They will support rural growth and employment, and will help to meet energy and climate policy targets for 2030.

The EIP-AGRI held the **EIP-AGRI Workshop 'Building new biomass supply chains for the bio-based economy'** on 27 and 28 May 2015 in Italy, with over 80 relevant stakeholders. The overall objective of the workshop was to help setting up and fostering cooperation mechanisms between agriculture/forestry and industry to guarantee a steady and reliable supply of renewable raw materials without compromising sustainability and fair income for the farmer and forest holders.

## MAIN CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED AT THE EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP

### Agricultural residues/processing co-products

- ▶ Resistance from farmers
- ▶ Lack of technical and non-technical know-how: soil depletion, access to funding opportunities
- ▶ Complexity of supply chain: logistics, organisation and management
- ▶ Lack of info on successful business cases
- ▶ Lack of communication and cooperation between actors
- ▶ Policy framework not coherent and stable
- ▶ Lack of market pool incentives

### Industrial crops

- ▶ Low and unstable agronomic performances of dedicated crops
- ▶ Lack of technical know-how (agronomic practices, logistics)
- ▶ Cultural barriers, lack of trust between actors
- ▶ Few opportunities of off-take agreements
- ▶ Competition of land use (push for marginal lands without clear specifications)

### Forestry residues/processing co-products

- ▶ Technical barriers only in some MS (e.g. harvesting techniques, logistics)
- ▶ Structure of ownership of forests (parcelling-out, small size of exploitations)
- ▶ Lack of demand for forestry residues/co-products
- ▶ Competition with cheaper imported wood

## SOLUTIONS AND TOOLS IDENTIFIED AT THE EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP

### Common understanding, building trust

- ▶ Strategy and vision on bioeconomy at regional level (with clear policy leadership)
- ▶ Database/information
- ▶ Communication tools towards primary sector to explain opportunities, industry and others
- ▶ Platforms with relevant actors of biomass value-chains => clear objectives/activities

### Concrete forms of cooperation

- ▶ Strengthening national platforms, clusters, Local Action Groups around specific themes with all relevant actors
- ▶ Innovation support services needed (e.g. facilitators)
- ▶ Agreements (to share risks and profits)
- ▶ Joint Ventures, PPP
- ▶ Demonstration farms and producers groups around topics (e.g. biomass collection, waste mgt)
- ▶ RD support (OGs, networks)
- ▶ Access to finance, investors

### Improving logistics

- ▶ Technical innovation for storage, transport and biomass densification
- ▶ Tailored-made solutions
- ▶ Demonstrate environmental, social and economic added-value of biomass value-chains (case studies)
- ▶ Short supply chains with small/medium-scale units
- ▶ Training and vocational development

## More information

[Workshop webpage](#)

[Final report](#)

- ▶ Plant-based bioproducts to boost regional development - [Agrinnovation - n°2 - p7](#)
- ▶ Farmers grow high-yield energy grass near Amsterdam Schiphol - [Agrinnovation - n°2 - p17](#)
- ▶ The Platform for Knowledge Based Bio-Economy relevant ERA-NETs - [Agrinnovation - n°1 - p26](#)
- ▶ [Turning waste into a resource](#)
- ▶ [Setting up short wood supply chains using hedgerows](#)

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## Join the EIP-AGRI Network!

Register to the EIP-AGRI website where you can find peers, projects, ideas and resources to catalyse innovation in agriculture, forestry and horticulture together.