

OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES FOR BIO-ECONOMY IN BULGARIA

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Challenges for Bioeconomy in EU

Solving Global Tasks:

- ❖ Climate change
- ❖ Land degradation
- ❖ Biodiversity
- ❖ Sustainable development

Steps in this direction:

- 2012 - the European Commission adopted the Innovation for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe strategy and a plan for its implementation
- 2015 - the European Commission adopted a plan to accelerate Europe's transition to a circular economy
- 2018 - the Commission published the Communication on 'A sustainable bioeconomy for Europe: strengthening the link between the economy, society and the environment'

Current State of Bioeconomy in Bulgaria

Bioeconomy sectors in Bulgaria

- employ 413 466 people and
- generate EUR 3 741 million value added and
- EUR 13 107 million turnover.

Presently the bioeconomy is related to biomass-producing sectors and the manufacture of food, beverage and tobacco sector.

The bio-based chemicals, pharmaceuticals, plastic and rubber are underrepresented.

The most developed bioeconomy sector in Bulgaria is bioenergy. This fact is due to a long-standing targeted national policy in support of increasing the use of renewable energy sources (RES).

Current State of Bioeconomy in Bulgaria



Expert group from Bulgarian Agricultural Academy and MAFF prepared Bioeconomy strategy. The strategy includes:

Descriptive analysis: production and distribution of biomass, research capacity and readiness to integrate the bio-economy into educational, vocational and scientific programs

SWOT analysis: findings

Strategic goals:

- SG 1: Sustainable management and development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries for sustainable production and provision of renewable resources
- SG 2: Research and innovation, partnerships for exchange and transfer of innovations, development of experimental infrastructure and access to it
- SG 3: Improving knowledge and skills

Action plan:

- 7 impact areas, 22 activities, expected results, indicators, responsible institutions, funding sources
- Areas of synergy with the Strategic Plan 2021-2027: coupled and sectoral direct payments, interventions in the field of rural development



Most Popular Non-Food Biobased Products (BBP)



- Products based on Bulgarian aromatic plants – essential oils, perfumery and cosmetics
- Official representative BNAEOPC (Bulgarian National Association Essential oils, Perfumery and Cosmetics) with more than 100 members
- Phytopharmacy
- Production of biofertilizers from the residues of waste processing (element of circularity)



Main Challenges for Bioeconomy



- Lack of information
 - Common platform needed providing information about available raw materials for bioeconomy, both in quantity and at location – biomass, waste
 - Information about where and how they can be used for successful biobased production – technology, markets
- Lack of financing



To Overcome the Lack of Information:

- Educating participants in the chain:
- creating collaboration between them

Connect Farmers – producing the raw material
– biomass with Industry – using biomass for its
products

- Providing scientific and financial resources
for development of new sources,
technologies and markets

Main Instruments

Dissemination of information and training the farmers and other participants in BBP chain through participation in convenient projects (workshops, publications in newsletters, conferences, platforms, networking, etc.)

- In this sense a number of projects are running with Bulgarian partners: as BioEAST, BioSTEP, CELEBio, ENABLING, etc.
- National projects funded by the National Science Program "Healthy Foods for a Strong Bioeconomy and Quality of Life" of the Ministry of Education and Science



Main Instruments to Overcome the Lack of Financing

Farmers and other stakeholders should be encouraged financially to implement bioeconomy activities and to realize its benefits and potential.

- Given support to small agricultural holdings under the RDP 2014-2020 and NRN (National Rural Network).
- New CAP must include measures of financial support for bioeconomy players.
- Convenient support for BBP industry.



Main Instruments to Overcome the Lack of Financing

- RDP for the next planning period and NRN.
- Structural funds
- New CAP (2020-2027) must include measures for financial support for bioeconomy players.



Projects in the Field of RES and Bioeconomy with BGBIOM

As a result of its experience, National Biomass Association (BGBIOM) was involved in number of projects, focussed on

- ❑ the re-use of agricultural waste and residues ([INEMAD – 7th framework program](#)),
- ❑ and forest waste and residues
Bioenergy4Business, www.bioenergy4business.eu/ and BioRES <http://bioresproject.eu/> both financed through [H2020](#)
- ❑ Project ENABLING intending to develop the potential of the bio-based industry, encouraging the creation of efficient and structured biomass supply chains for the production of bio-based products (BBP).



Thank you for your attention

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