

Rural climate action through bio-based initiatives (11.00 – 12.00, room: 0B)

1. Carbon sinks in rural areas – Recommendations from an EIP-AGRI Focus Group (EU)



The EIP-AGRI Focus Group 'Moving from source to sink in arable farming' tried to identify cost-effective farm management practices and tools that could foster and ensure long-lasting carbon storage in arable farming, contributing to climate change mitigation. Six main groups of management practices were identified, ranging from soil management practices (e.g. permanent soil cover, minimum soil disturbance and crop rotations) to agroforestry approaches and irrigation management. The Focus Group discussed success factors and challenges to the uptake of these practices, together with local adaptation strategies, research needs and ideas for Operational Groups. The Focus Group concluded that, to enhance carbon sequestration on annual cropland, it is crucial to raise awareness of the value of soil organic carbon and provide incentives such as certification schemes or the payment of carbon sequestration as an ecosystem service. <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/focus-groups/moving-source-sink-arable-farming>

Presented by: Gottlieb Basch

2. Carbon Action initiative (Finland)



Agricultural soil holds an enormous potential to mitigate climate change by storing carbon. Carbon Action brings together scientists, farmers and businesses to work together for sustainable agriculture. The project develops and researches ways of accelerating soil carbon sequestration and verifying the results scientifically, and introduces climate-friendly, regenerative farming practices to farms.. www.carbonaction.org

Presented by: Nicholas Wardi

Building local bioeconomy through Smart Villages (11.00 – 12.00, room: 0C)

3. Building a Food Ecosystem (Belgium)



The Belgian Local Action Group Pays de Condruces supported the creation of a 'farm incubator' that helped create jobs for new entrants to farming. The project has 4 main functions: i) Hosting legal, admin, financial support; ii) Sharing infrastructures/production; iii) Coaching (business and technical); iv) Networking – animation. It has evolved into a network of incubators. LEADER played a decisive role in supporting the long-term strategy, leveraging other funding and promoting territorial action. <https://www.galcondruces.be>

Presented by: Jean-François Pecheur

4. Smart Arctic Cluster (Finland)



This initiative is putting into practice a bottom-up strategy for smart specialisation. By working closely with entrepreneurs from the villages, the cluster – gathering businesses, funders, researchers and mediators – identified huge potential for reducing capital outflow and adding local value in two key fields: energy and food. It developed an integrated strategy to support local entrepreneurs through education in schools, opening up public procurement and building local food and energy hubs. The projects have created local jobs, cut waste and emissions, reduced costs and kept local income in the local economy.

Presented by: Eero Purontaus

Creating an enabling environment – Policy coherence (12.00 – 13.00, room: 0B)

5. Key barriers to upscaling rural bioeconomy initiatives – the perspective of agri-food cooperatives (Spain)



Cooperatives play a key role in bringing together several rural actors to reach the critical mass needed to support the costs and risks of implementing innovative approaches such as bio-based initiatives. This session will be introduced by a presentation of the key barriers faced by the members of Cooperativas Agro-alimentarias de España in accessing new bio-based markets. <http://www.agro-alimentarias.coop>

Presented by: Pablo Fernandez

6. Examples of policy coherence enabling rural bioenergy production (EU / Austria)



Concerted policy action at EU, national and local level can deliver sustainable growth. In rural Austria, thanks to a wise policy and incentives design (Klimaaktiv), more than 1000 small-scale District Heating networks were created. On top of decarbonising the fossil-based heating stock, these farmer-managed district heating brought new skills, created new sources of income and opportunities for use and mobilisation of local biomass. <https://bioenergyeurope.org>

Presented by: Jean-Marc Jossart

Regional approaches to bioeconomy (12.00 – 13.00, room: 0C)

7. Knowledge Based Bioeconomy Action Plan of Vidzeme Region (Latvia)

The Vidzeme Region (Latvia) recently elaborated an Action Plan for the development of a knowledge-driven bioeconomy innovation ecosystem. Its objective is to raise stakeholders' awareness on the bioeconomy and the sustainable exploitation of bio-resources. The Plan emphasises the delivery of awareness-raising events and promotional materials, providing consultancy and best practice study trips to entrepreneurs and different actors related to the bioeconomy. The project takes into consideration the Latvian Bioeconomy Strategy and the smart specialisation priorities of the Vidzeme Region.

Presented by: Inese Suija Markova

8. Gathering rural bioeconomy actors in Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (Italy)



The Italian Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia (RAFG) developed its regional bioeconomy strategy in (2019 acknowledging the role of clusters as a tool for local development. For the development of its regional strategy, RAFVG relied particularly on the specific cluster operating in the agri-food strategic area, which eventually developed into the Agrifood & Bioeconomy Clustering Agency operating as private advisor and support entity on behalf of the Region. <http://www.agrifoodfvg.it>

Presented by: Pierpaolo Rovere