

**Transcript of discussion group outcomes**  
**1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the ENRD Thematic Group on Bioeconomy and Climate Action in rural areas**  
**25 September 2019, Brussels**

<b>Opportunity</b>	<b>Enablers, tools etc</b>
<b>Opportunities in production</b>	
Strengthen the circular aspect: Use re-used water, bioenergy, biorefineries within the production side – including recovered nutrients and materials – reducing also the dependency on external inputs	Laws, standards Consistency across MS Technology Understanding resources & how to use Research
Agronomic practices: Move from seasonal crops to perennial crops – to increase sequestration – combined with no or zero tillage.	Vol measures on pedo/clim conditions Advice Incentives for cover/type Machinery investments
Multi-functionality: Maximise the 'use' of land where biomass is produced, ensuring a balance of ESS across a landscape, making space for HNV and natural areas.	Incentives Advice
Agronomic practices: Plant biodiverse and carbon rich pastures.	Incentives Advice RBPS
Agro/livestock practices: Animal feed and management to decrease emissions.	Research
Transversal value chain approach: Carbon neutral milk chains – bringing together pasture-fed, long-term pasture, recovered nutrients, meat production, etc.	Accounting rules Open data Measurement tools
<b>Opportunities in PROCESSING of biomass</b>	
Shift to using renewable sources or energy	Remove barriers for inserting local, smallscale, bio energy to grids. Cooperation of farmers to produce bioenergy. Evidence of € savings, and of feasibility of pay-back time of investment, for processors, to facilitate the decision. Make "green" processes a marketing factor. Evidence of easiness/convenience of the energy shift - Ireland: SEAI Community based innovation - EIP-Agri
Increase energy efficiency through improved machines and processes	Increase awareness of funding opportunities such as EAFRD - for energy efficiency and energy production. Energy audit tools <a href="https://scoope.eu/final-press-release-of-scoope-project/">https://scoope.eu/final-press-release-of-scoope-project/</a>
Energy recovery in processes and its use for other steps in production or processing	Local collaboration models, symbioses between businesses, with private and public sectors Make the use of recovered energy visible as an element of increased profitability/productivity Integrate circular, bio energy use and efficiency in all categories of public funding as an element increasing likelihood of accessing funding
Improved material use e.g. wood cutting through IT solutions	Ensure research adapted to local conditions - regional universities. EIP-OGs Disseminate existing innovation and technology Awareness of € savings - advise, information to rural SMEs Linking technology to climate targets helps integrating upgrade in regional development plans Volume and marginal price of materials define whether SME invests in expensive technology
Conversion of infrastructures to enable replacing fossil materials (e.g. refineries)	Long-term cost benefit analysis
Replacing imports with local, possibly refined materials (grass for protein)	Good business case, providing several materials for different uses Need to ensure the local process is (more) energy efficient and has smaller CO2 footprint. A management tool for processing / enterprises needed ( as exists for farms on nutrients etc)
<b>Opportunities in DISTRIBUTION</b>	
Reduce km's through streamlining and collaboration and smart IT applications – same for collection and other VC transports	Coopertative models Contractual models between producers and retailers Use existing networks for distribution
Low emission vehicles and fuels	Public incentives and taxes Research, information on impact of fossil fere fuels
Resource efficiency in (stockage) infrastructure	Get big retailers aboard
Local supply chains – reduce distance between producer and consumer	Local distribution plans Information and awareness targeting consumers Business models for short supply chains
Make sustainable distribution part of the product brand / more transparent	Certification
<b>Opportunities in CONSUMPTION</b>	
Raising awareness of consumers to encourage sustainable consumption patterns	educational programmes in schools, training of teachers and profesionals
Promote direct selling, local and seasonal food consumption and short supply chains (also non-food)	preferential conditions in public procurement rules, school food schemes

Reduce packaging / reduce plastic in packaging	retailer policies and practices going beyond standards - recycling schemes
Labelling/communication/marketing providing information on carbon footprint and certification systems	streamline labels, find common systems (example IT - VIVA sustainability certification for wine production)
Opportunities in RE-USE / RECYCLING	
Increase reuse of materials reduces demand for more materials and hence the emissions	Ensure quality and safety of reused materials– tailored to the end uses, focus on safety/sourcing of inputs to ensure usable outputs – biogas digestate, bioplastic polymers etc Creation or re-establishing circular links - users to producers to users
Use of residues from biogas production for soil nutrients	Knowledge, standards, quality
Food waste reduction, link back round from consumers to nutrients	Issue of source quality remains
Close link to consumption/processing opportunities exist here to reduce waste	Research on bio-based products; Develop and disseminate framework for substances that can be extracted to facilitate the identification of economic opportunity and use (farmers, agri cooepratives) Permissions to use and store bio-based substances (legislation, regulations)
Monitoring and reducing carbon footprint at different stages of the cascading use	Understanding carbon values of inputs – wastes vs coproducts vs primary materials (waste hierarchy) and related technical processes (tradeoffs? Is the reuse energy efficient, would the residue serve better for climate if left on the field to improve soil composition, etc)