



Case study // Round Table SDG 15: Sustainable Forest Management and the SDGs

Forest products and the bio-economy: the case of Finland

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

Level: national

Summary

The case study refers to the implementation of the Finnish Bioeconomy Strategy which is the result of a governmental resolution of 2014. After the parliament election in 2015, the new Government of PM Juha Sipilä produced an action plan for the implementation of its vision: - *In 2025, Finland is an inventive, caring and safe country where we can all feel important. Our society is based on trust.* The action plan has five strategic priorities and the bioeconomy is one of them. Some 300 million euros were allocated to boost activities in the field of bioeconomy and clean technologies during the years 2016-2018. The objectives in the field of the bioeconomy are as follows:

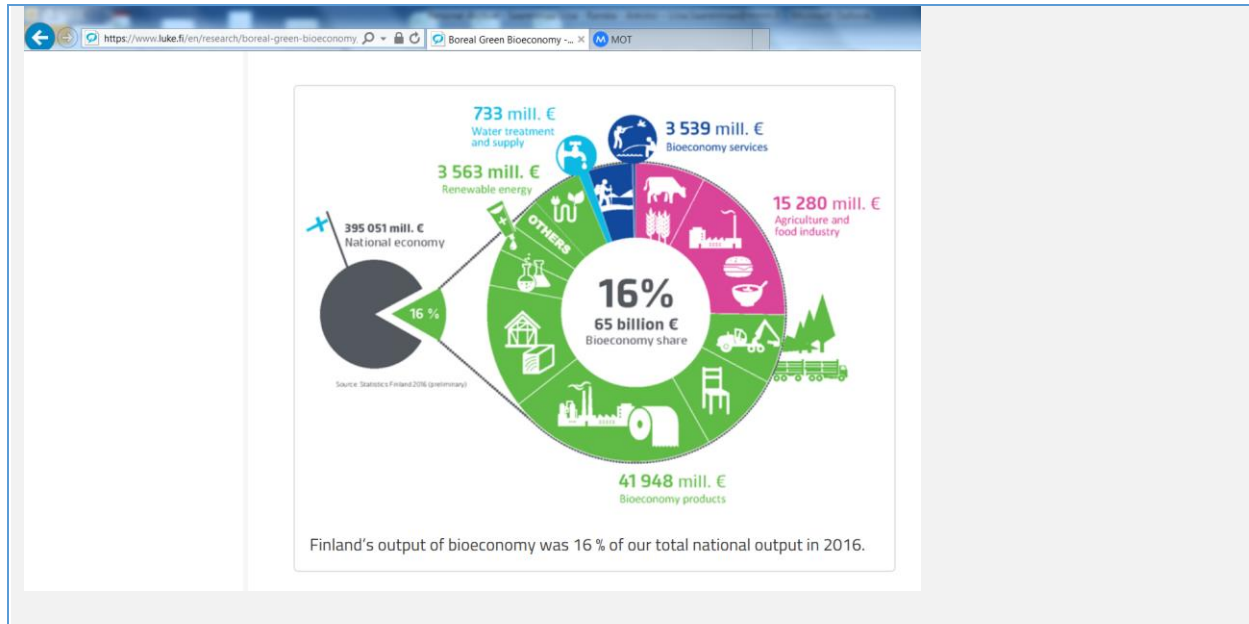
- Finland will achieve the 2020 climate objectives during the government term.
- Imported fossil fuel-based energy will be replaced by clean and renewable domestic energy.
- New jobs will be created through the growth of enterprises in the field of clean technologies, the increase in sustainable use of natural resources, versatile rural SME's and an efficient circular economy.
- The trade balance will be improved by 500 million euros based on the better profitability of the food sector.
- The administrative burden of the enterprises will be significantly reduced.

The action plan includes several measures in the field of forestry and forest industries. The purpose is to increase the supply of wood and diversify its use; to develop new products, services and business models in the field of bioeconomy; and to accelerate innovations through pilot projects and innovative public procurement.

More than half of the Finnish bioeconomy is forest-based. Global drivers push strongly the transformation towards a bioeconomy, and we can see the change already happening. The transformation towards a bioeconomy will require a new kind of cross-disciplinary and cross-industrial co-operation, and we believe this will lead to the creation of new business models in the forest sector. Finally, the end users are consumers, and they will ultimately drive the market and their choices define what kind of products and services will have the highest demand.

Situation

The national output of the bioeconomy in Finland was 16 % of the total in 2016. More than half of the Finnish bioeconomy is based on the forest sector, which means forestry (the management and harvesting of forest resources) and forest industries (processes, services and products). The objective is to increase the output of the bioeconomy up to 100 billion euros by the year 2025. In 2016 the value of the bioeconomy was 65 billion euros. The economic growth in the field of bioeconomy needs to be 4 % annually to reach the target.



Strategy

The Finnish bioeconomy strategy includes measures for each of the strategic priority areas. The strategy is implemented jointly between the ministries of Economy and Employment, of Agriculture and Forestry and of the Environment.

The Government of Finland has allocated some 300 million euros as extra funding for the years 2016-2018 to boost the development of clean solutions, new products, and environmental measures. A follow-up system is in place.

Results and impact

- New investments in the forest sector including forest-based biorefineries
- Enhancement of wood construction
- Rapid growth of nature tourism
- New business models based on ecosystem services

Potential for replication

Several countries have published their national bioeconomy strategies and this strategy could serve a good example for those that have not yet done so. .

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