

Summary of Round Table Discussions

Challenge 3: Supporting Wood and Biomass Mobilization

Short description of the Challenge

Sustainable supply of high quality raw material is an indispensable precondition to maintain and strengthen the competitiveness of the forest-based sector and to further develop the bioeconomy in the EU. Wood demand is forecast to grow in the future. A clear potential to increase forest utilisation exists in most EU countries, mainly in small private holdings. Mobilizing this potential will need innovative models of awareness raising, cooperation and organization of forest owners, adapted to their different attitudes on forest management. In addition, there is demand for improved forest operations, more efficient supply chain logistics and better market information at local, regional and global scales.

From the actions to manage this innovation challenge presented in Session 3, the following 4 were selected by the workshop participants for the Table Discussion:

- Action 5: Go to 100 % renewable energy in forest area
- Action 2: Improved processes of obtaining biofuels
- Action 3: Use of more efficient and environmental friendly biomass boilers
- Action 4: New bioproducts from forests

Given the balanced selection results by the workshop participants, the table discussion on supporting wood and biomass mobilisation was translated into two main questions:

- How to motivate/empower forest owners on active forest management for improved wood/biomass mobilisation?
- How to improve the supply management based on market needs?

Main statements during the Table Discussion

- Significant differences at EU level regarding ownership structures, evolution of markets, and regulations lead to significant differences in levels of wood mobilisation. Over regulation, outdated legislation and/or lack of legislation are main factors for inhibiting the mobilisation of wood more successfully.
- Innovation on the demand side requires different production patterns on the supply side that meet the local needs.
- New organisation models are required to better bring together forest owners (producers) and the industry.
- Better involvement of fragmented forest owners needs support from various sides, e.g. government, local authorities, owner associations. Also supportive legislative solutions are needed.
- Logistic systems should have low impact on forest ecosystems. For this, development of technology and acceptance by local communities are needed.
- Given the long rotation length, it is difficult to adapt supply to changing demand. Shortening of rotation period and genetic improving could be helpful approaches.
- Often Combined Heat and Power generation (CHP) lead to rising demand for biomass, but more from industry than from the forests. CHP need functioning markets to sell energy.

Key messages for EU Policy Making

- The EIP Agriculture should be used to improve the knowledge base and to establish new forms of collaboration of forest owners-industry-authorities-research. Besides harnessing the outcomes of existing projects, new pilot projects should help in this respect.
- Improved levels of wood mobilisation can be reached, inter alia, through implementing joint administrations, i.e. by building partnerships between local authorities and forest owners.