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BBioNets Knowledge Transfer Activities - initial version

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Table of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
BBT	Bio-Based Technology
ETR	European Transnational Regions
EU	European Union
FAN	Forest and Agriculture Network
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KTA	Knowledge Transfer Activities
NGO	Non-Government Organization
OG	Operational Group
RPFA	Regional Partner for Forestry and Agriculture
RR	Represented Region
TT	Train-the-Trainer

Executive Summary

This document outlines the BBioNets Project's (BBioNets) Knowledge Transfer Activities (KTAs) and their role in implementing the "BBioNets for Everyone" concept, providing a clear overview of KTAs' objectives and contextual background. At the core of the KTAs are the Operational Groups (OGs) and their potential to support the dissemination and uptake of Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs). These activities aim to engage underrepresented groups -such as unemployed individuals, women, and youth- through the dedicated "BBioNets for Everyone" concept. The KTAs follow a phased approach beginning with broad content targeting general audiences and gradually evolving to address more specialized groups with increasingly tailored content.

KTAs planned within the framework of the BBioNets include:

- Info-days to:
 - Promote the concept and highlight the need for and the benefits of establishing OGs at national level; and
 - Showcase BBTs that have been successfully implemented in the Represented Region (RR).
- Train-the-Trainer (TT) workshops with advisors, other multipliers and BBioNets partners meeting to exchange experiences, solutions, concerns, ways to overcome barriers
- small-scale mentoring to provide customised support to farmers'/foresters' co-operatives/ associations so as to:
 - Boost potential collaborations amongst farmers/foresters;
 - Provide guidance to allow further understanding of BBT specifics; and
 - Promote OG creation through networking.

1 Introduction

As part of the BBioNets, three (3) key activities were selected -(i) info-days, (ii) TT workshops, and (iii) small-scale mentoring- to support the transfer of knowledge generated and consolidated during the project's implementation. These KTAs follow a phased approach: they begin with broad content aimed at general audiences and progressively evolve to engage more specialized groups with increasingly targeted content. They serve a dual purpose:

- An indirect one - to act as a means for implementing the "**BBioNets for Everyone**" concept; and
- Several direct ones - including raising awareness, providing mentorship, enhancing understanding of BBTs and the potential of OGs, and engaging with policymakers and key decision-makers to foster a favourable environment that supports and facilitates further collaboration among farmers and foresters, particularly within the OG framework.

The KTAs of the BBioNets are central to implementing the "BBioNets for Everyone" concept, which prioritizes the inclusivity of vulnerable groups such as women, unemployed individuals, youth, and the organizations that represent or support them. Grounded in the core principles of the European Union's (EUs) strategies, policies, and institutional frameworks, these activities translate inclusivity from principle into practice. This inclusive model strengthens both social and economic sustainability, aligning with broader European and global objectives for equitable development.

This document initially outlines the theoretical approach to inclusivity within the framework of the BBioNets and subsequently offers a comprehensive overview of the KTAs, including practical guidelines and indicative timelines to support their implementation.

2 Focus and Key Drivers

Inclusivity seeks to rectify historical inequalities and injustices stemming from varying access to material resources, physical characteristics, and the symbolic significance attributed to individuals. It is an ongoing, aspirational effort that demands continuous engagement, as demographic classifications and frameworks from earlier paradigms continue to shape modern society.

Inclusivity is a multidimensional concept, with key components including:

- The **cognitive and/or professional dimension** of inclusivity (different cultures, experience, knowledge, qualifications, skills, training, types of work, value judgments, etc.);
- The **social dimension** of inclusivity (access to information and dialogue, healthcare guarantees, mobility, remuneration and category/grade/income disparities, status, etc.); and
- The **societal dimension** of inclusivity (age, beliefs, disability, ethics, ethnic and/or social origin, family situation, gender, language, physical appearance, political opinions, etc.).

The BBioNets Project is dedicated to fostering inclusivity in all its initiatives, ensuring diverse voices and perspectives are integrated into the development of a sustainable bioeconomy. By emphasizing:

- (1) participation inclusivity;
- (2) gender inclusivity;
- (3) youth inclusivity; and
- (4) inclusivity for unemployed and economically disadvantaged individuals.

BBioNets aims to build a collaborative and equitable framework. Furthermore, BBioNets' primary focus on disseminating knowledge related to BBTs inherently aligns with the cognitive dimension of inclusivity.

In line with its commitment to an ecological transition, BBioNets also strives for social sustainability where no one is left behind. By implementing the "BBioNets for Everyone" concept, the project targets a broad audience during KTAs, with a focus on unemployed individuals, women, and young farmers and foresters, as well as organizations representing or supporting them.

Knowledge transfer is the process through which:

- Experiences - insights gained from past actions or decisions;
- Information - data, facts, and structured content;
- Practices - methods, processes, and ways of working;
- Skills - know-how and practical abilities; and
- Values - underlying assumptions or beliefs that shape behaviour;

are shared or moved from one person, group, or organization to another.

For knowledge transfer to be effective, the activities through which it is carried out must ensure that the right knowledge is available to the right people at the right time. To ensure the relevance of the knowledge, the knowledge transfer process relied heavily on information gathered through the BBioNets "Inventory", which was developed, continuously used, and enhanced under WP2/T2.1. The identification of the appropriate people and the determination of the right timing are addressed in the present document.

3 "BBioNets for Everyone" Concept

The "BBioNets for Everyone" concept encompasses **values**, **guiding principles**, and **proposed actions** aimed at achieving meaningful engagement of all stakeholders, regardless of their background, in contributing to innovation and sustainability in forestry and agriculture. By prioritizing these values, **BBioNets ensures that marginalized voices are heard and that opportunities for growth and empowerment are made accessible to all.**

3.1 Participation Inclusivity

While participation has been a key element in EU integration for decades, it has often been narrowly applied, involving only selected stakeholders or decision-makers. This approach tends to exclude diverse and often marginalized actors, particularly those who do not govern or participate in (established) organizations with a defined administrative structure. In order to foster collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing, BBioNets intends to actively engage a wide range of stakeholders -across sectors, disciplines, and communities- ensuring that diverse perspectives contribute to a bioeconomy with economically viable and sustainable practices.

To ensure the highest possible level of stakeholder participation, BBioNets:

- Established structured collaboration mechanisms (i.e. Forest and Agriculture Networks (FANs)) that actively engage diverse stakeholders, including farmers/foresters, OGs, researchers and policymakers; and
- Designed KTAs that focus on women, unemployed individuals, and young farmers and foresters, as well as organizations representing or supporting them.

BBioNets is committed to advance inclusive participation ensuring that its efforts are impactful and aligned with the values of the communities it serves. Therefore:

- BBioNets takes a proactive approach to outreach by ensuring that information about its objectives, initiatives, and outcomes is communicated in a way that is understandable to all of its target audiences, and disseminated through a variety of channels to maximize its impact;
- KTAs are scheduled and designed in a way that initially target a broad and undifferentiated audience (including policymakers, research institutions, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) representing vulnerable groups, primary production producers, and community leaders), and gradually more specific relationships are developed between these audiences in order to achieve the maximum possible collaboration, synergies, and effectiveness in the dissemination of the BBTs;
- Stakeholders are directly engaged facilitating interaction, providing opportunities to understand their motivations, challenges, and interests; and
- A blended engagement model is embraced by BBioNets, combining both online and in-person means to reach diverse audiences. This ensures that stakeholders can engage in ways that resonate with their preferences, whether through digital platforms, in-person workshops, or participatory discussions.

3.2 Gender Inclusivity

The EU Gender Equality Strategy delivers on the Von der Leyen Commission's commitment to achieving a Union of Equality. The commitment to creating a more inclusive and sustainable economy is integral to shaping a society where all individuals, regardless of gender, are free to pursue their ambitions and thrive. Achieving this vision requires focused actions to ensure that women, men, and gender-diverse individuals are equally represented and able to participate in shaping their economic futures and can lead and make decisions in key sectors, including sustainability, economic development, and community-driven initiatives. To this end challenging stereotypes that hinder diverse participation and addressing gender disparities is critical. This includes closing gender gaps in the workforce, ensuring equal participation in emerging sectors like BBTs and green technology.

"The strategic engagement for gender equality 2016-2019 defined the framework for the European Commission's work towards gender equality in the referred period. The strategic engagement focuses on the following 5 priority areas:

- (1) *increasing female labour market participation and economic independence of women and men;*
- (2) *reducing the gender pay, earnings and pension gaps and thus fighting poverty among women;*
- (3) *promoting equality between women and men in decision-making;*
- (4) *combating gender-based violence and protecting and supporting victims; and*
- (5) *promoting gender equality and women's rights across the world."*

BBioNets is committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and equitable bioeconomy sector, where all individuals, irrespective of gender, have equal opportunities for participation, growth, and leadership. Gender equality is not only a matter of fairness but is essential for driving innovation and achieving sustainable impact within the bioeconomy.

Picture 1: BBioNets 3rd Plenary Meeting, Thessaloniki, Greece, 3-4 April 2025; >60% of female participants



As part of its commitment, BBioNets is focused on:

- Integrating gender equality into all aspects and phases of project management ensuring gender balance in decision-making; and
- Ensuring equal access to all projects implementation initiatives, including KTAs - info-days, TT workshops, and small-scale mentoring, are all activities designed to foster collaboration and exchange experiences, while boosting gender equality by ensuring inclusive support for women.

Despite progress, challenges remain. Within BBioNets, bioeconomy sectors intertwined to primary production and -to a lesser extent- to the processing of biomass residues continue to face persistent gender disparities. Tackling these challenges will require unbiased recruitment practices, focused skill development, and targeted networking strategies.

To further gender equality, BBioNets will:

- Offer mentoring and networking opportunities to support individuals of all genders in advancing their careers and stepping into leadership roles. To address gender underrepresentation, the initiative will integrate individuals from these groups into small-scale mentoring activities, providing them with the guidance and support needed to succeed in the bioeconomy sector; and
- Highlight the contributions of women to the development of the bioeconomy by inviting women experts to participate in BBioNets activities and creating visual (Educational and Training) materials (storytelling videos) that showcase successful female role models in the field.

BBioNets will continuously track progress toward gender equality through the collection of anonymized data on representation and participation. This policy will be regularly reviewed to ensure its effectiveness, with updates based on feedback, emerging best practices, and evolving needs within the bioeconomy sector.

3.3 Youth Inclusivity

In the years to come, the EU Youth Strategy -the framework for EU youth policy cooperation for 2019-2027, based on the Council Resolution of 26 November 2018- strives to:

- *Enable young people to be architects of their own lives, build their resilience and equip them with life skills to cope in a changing world;*
- *Encourage young people to become active citizens, agents of solidarity and positive change for communities across Europe, inspired by EU values and a European identity;*
- *Help prevent youth social exclusion;*
- *Improve the impact of policy decisions on young people through dialogue and addressing their needs across sectors.*

To this purpose, youth policy cooperation will undertake activities grouped around three areas of action:

- (1) *engage* - fostering youth participation in democratic life;
- (2) *connect* - bringing young people together across the EU and beyond to foster voluntary

engagement, learning mobility, solidarity and intercultural understanding;

(3) *empower* - supporting youth empowerment through quality, innovation and recognition of youth work.

The strategy will pay special attention to reaching out to all young people and strive to improve the prospects of all young people regardless of their background or social status.

BBioNets recognizes that young agricultural and forestry entrepreneurs play a key role in shaping the future of bio-economy. Its policy aims to empower youth, foster collaboration between generations, and create an inclusive environment where emerging talent and experienced professionals work together to drive innovation.

BBioNets is committed to:

- Providing young participants with opportunities for professional growth, skill development, and leadership;
- Encouraging collaboration between early-career and senior professionals to accelerate knowledge transfer; and
- Challenging age-related biases and fostering an environment where all voices -regardless of experience level- are valued.

Young professionals may face challenges in gaining recognition, securing leadership roles, or accessing training opportunities. BBioNets will actively work to ensure that the limited experience of younger individuals is not seen as a barrier to their inclusion in KTAs, but rather as an opportunity to create pathways for meaningful participation and collaboration with senior generations.

To ensure youth inclusion and cross-generational collaboration, BBioNets will:

- Actively engaging young individuals or their representative organizations in all BBioNets KTAs;
- Enhance cross-generational mentoring via the development of structured small-scale mentoring where experienced professionals will guide young participants, while reverse mentoring allows youth to share fresh perspectives on emerging trends and technologies;
- Raise awareness of the importance of youth contributions and create an environment where intergenerational exchange is valued and encouraged.

Feedback from youth participants will be actively sought to refine initiatives, remove barriers, and strengthen intergenerational collaboration.

3.4 Inclusivity for Unemployed and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals

EU Member States should actively support a sustainable social market economy by facilitating investment in quality employment, particularly in the context of the digital and green transitions. In alignment with the EU and national employment targets for 2030, Member States should work to remove barriers to hiring, encourage responsible entrepreneurship and self-employment.

BBioNets places special emphasis on harnessing the potential of the bio- and circular economy to generate sustainable job opportunities. BBioNets aspires the creation of locally-based, inclusive sustainable bio- and circular economy networks. To this end, coordinated cross-sector collaboration is essential. Cooperatives and producer groups, civil society organizations, and public authorities addressing unemployment - once they recognize the importance of including vulnerable groups in

the labour market - are called to work collectively toward shared goals.

BBioNets' approach is based on the assumption that, for individuals and communities to develop sustainable livelihoods within the bio-circular agriculture sector, two key conditions must be met:

- (1) market opportunities must exist - either for entrepreneurial activities, where bio-based products and services are in demand, or for employment within the sector; and
- (2) people must possess the necessary skills and competencies - ensuring they can access these opportunities through knowledge of circular economy principles and bio-economy value chains.

BBioNets adopts a structured approach to fostering awareness and strengthening collaboration in the bio-circular agriculture sector, with disadvantage individuals playing a key role as both beneficiaries and drivers of this effort. Key actions include:

- info-days to which invitations will be extended to unemployed and marginalized individuals, as well as to the organizations representing them. Content will be tailored to the specific needs of these target groups, with a dual focus on informative content and fostering active motivation; and
- small-scale mentoring on bio- and circular economy practices and bio-based entrepreneurship, where "marginalized" beneficiaries will engage alongside senior mentors.

4 Knowledge Transfer Activities (KTAs)

Among the key objectives of BBioNets is to highlight the importance of OGs in the dissemination and implementation of BBTs, ensuring broader adoption across project's regions, (i.e. RRs). Furthermore, selecting the most regionally appropriate BBTs and extending their reach across wider geographical areas remains a central priority. In alignment with the EU's guidelines on inclusivity, the project places a strong emphasis on engaging unemployed individuals, women, young farmers and foresters, and the organizations that represent or support them. To this end, each proposed KTA must carefully take into account these target groups.

4.1 Info-days

Three (3) info-days will be hosted in each RR, aimed at emphasizing the critical role of OGs in the dissemination of BBTs and showcasing the most relevant BBTs for each region. These events may feature individual dissemination components and are encouraged to make use of the BBioNets Educational and Training Material produced, under the respective WP3/T3.1, wherever relevant and feasible.

With an overall Key Performance Indicator (KPI) of 60 attendees across all three (3) regional info-days, each event should ideally attract around 20 participants who either belong to or have direct access to the target groups identified within the "BBioNets for Everyone" concept.

To enhance the effectiveness of the info-days, reaching the most relevant audience and ensuring active participation are essential. Indicative entities to which invitations are recommended to be addressed may include:

- Farmer cooperatives and forestry associations - established networks that already work with young farmers, foresters, and other target groups; their endorsement will also enhance credibility and increase attendance;
- women's networks and employment agencies focused on rural development and workforce training; and
- OGs - additionally acting as multipliers by sharing knowledge attained within their members.

Info-days can be organized within the framework of other events that align with both the target audience and their thematic focus. In this case, the number of participants and related details will be reported based on the total number of individuals registered for the entire event.

To maximize participation and the effectiveness of BBioNets info-days, selecting the appropriate locations and formats is crucial. These may include:

- Agri-food and forestry events and exhibitions - participating in info-days as a parallel activity within agri-food exhibitions/events on bioeconomy and on agricultural and forestry innovation;
- Employment, women's and youth entrepreneurship hubs - hosting info-days in spaces dedicated to job placement, female entrepreneurship and youth initiatives.

Due to their function in raising awareness and engaging stakeholders, the info-days are best scheduled before other KTAs. As introductory events, they serve to inform, mobilize, and prepare participants, creating a foundation for deeper learning and collaboration in subsequent activities.

Therefore, it is recommended that they be the first activity to be initiated by Feb 2025 and completed, ideally by November 2025. As of April 30th, the following info-days have been conducted

Table 1: Info-days conducted as of 30 April 2025

RR	Date	Partners Involved	Event Title
Ireland	27/02/2025	MTU & TEAGASC	Industrial Hemp Conference
Italy	13/03/2025	CREA	Bio-based Technologies: The Driving Force for Agricultural and Forestry Innovation
Italy	10/04/2025	CREA	Active Ingredients for the Cosmetic Industry from Waste from the processing of Hazelnuts and Cocoa beans; Cos.No.F Project Final Workshop

Detailed information about the info-days that were held is provided in the Appendix II.

4.2 Train-the-Trainers Workshops

The three (3) TT workshops are designed to empower advisors, multipliers, and project partners with the knowledge, strategies, and tools necessary to drive the adoption of BBTs. These interactive workshops foster experience exchange, collaborative problem-solving, and capacity-building to overcome systemic barriers in sustainable innovation. Through expert-led discussions, case study analysis, and hands-on exercises, participants will map key challenges, share best practices, and develop actionable solutions to enhance BBT implementation. By equipping stakeholders with practical insights and strategies, the workshop aims to accelerate the transition towards a more circular, bio-based economy while strengthening networks and knowledge-sharing across sectors.

With an overall KPI of 60 attendees across all three (3) TT workshops, each workshop should ideally include around 20 participants who either belong to or have direct access to the target groups identified within the "BBioNets for Everyone" concept (women, unemployed, youth). The content of each workshop may vary depending on the target group it addresses and its specific objectives.

Similar to the info-days, the TT workshops may be held independently, in conjunction with other activities not directly linked to BBioNets, or together with info-days organized as part of the BBioNets Project. The ideal, though not exclusive, timeline for implementing the workshops is from July 2025 to February 2026.

4.3 Small-scale Mentoring

Mentorship is a dynamic, reciprocal relationship within a controlled setting, where an experienced professional (mentor) guides a less experienced individual (mentee). The purpose of mentorship is to foster growth for both parties, empowering the mentee to take an active role in shaping their own development. This collaborative process enables the mentee to voice their needs and priorities,

actively contributing to their skill development.

The small-scale mentoring activity aims to offer tailored support to farmers' and foresters' cooperatives and associations, identified by the Regional Partners for Forestry and Agriculture (RPFAs) and their FANs. This effort seeks to strengthen collaboration among farmers and foresters, provide targeted guidance for a deeper understanding of BBT specifics, and foster OG development through networking. BBioNets will implement a structured three-step mentoring approach: understanding, analysis, and personalized counselling.

A fundamental step for the successful implementation of small-scale mentoring is the careful selection of beneficiaries. The selection of beneficiaries for small-scale mentoring must be completed by January 31, 2026, based on certain criteria. These criteria may be revised based on insights gained from the preceding KTAs and discussions among partners but must be finalized by November 30, 2025.

Table 2: Small-scale Mentoring Beneficiaries Selection Criteria

Small-scale Mentoring Beneficiaries Selection Criteria	
(1)	<i>BBT-related criteria</i>
(1.1)	Access to organic residues compatible with BBTs
(1.2)	Availability of / Access to the necessary equipment and infrastructure for implementing BBTs
(1.3)	(Potential for) participation in OGs
(2)	<i>Inclusivity criteria</i>
(2.1)	Age (startups, young farmers)
(2.2)	Gender
(2.3)	Disadvantaged/Unemployed Individuals
(3)	<i>Multiplying Potential</i>
(3.1)	Ability and willingness to promote BBT adoption
(3.2)	Strong interest in bioeconomy and circular economy
(3.3)	Engagement in sustainable practices

As a first step, beneficiaries selected for small-scale mentoring will be invited in February 2026 to clearly articulate their needs during an on-site or on-line meeting. This interactive and structured approach enables participants to actively define their priorities while receiving targeted guidance, ensuring that the mentoring process is as effective and impactful as possible.

The analysis will focus on identifying insights from individual responses, categorizing each beneficiaries' specific needs and interests. This includes assessing personal challenges, resource requirements, and areas where targeted expertise from OGs or pioneering producers could provide the most value. Additionally, the analysis will consider the availability of relevant resources and expertise, ensuring that the mentoring process is personalized and effectively tailored to each producer's unique situation.

To analyse the information gathered, the following tools and techniques can be applied:

- Qualitative Analysis – Narrative and discourse analysis of spoken responses
- Stakeholder Mapping – Identifying key actors who can support individual producers
- Gap Analysis – Assessing the difference between current needs and available resources to provide customized support

A short report summarizing the results of the analysis is recommended to be completed by the end of March 2026.

The following process is recommended for matching mentees with mentors.

(1) Mapping mentees' needs (1st Meeting)

Needs are categorized into key themes such as:

- Bio-circular practices (e.g., biomass valorisation, composting).
- Collaboration and networking (e.g., setting up OGs).
- Funding and business models (e.g., access to markets, grants).
- Technical knowledge (e.g., regenerative agriculture, low-carbon farming).

(2) creation of a mentors' group and categorization based on:

- Expertise area (e.g., bio-based materials, agri-business models).
- Professional background (e.g., pioneering farmer, academic, entrepreneur).
- Networking potential (participation in FANs, OGs, clusters).

Table 3: Small-scale Mentoring Key Milestones

Key Milestones	Due Date	
Definition of beneficiary selection criteria	NOV	2025
Beneficiary selection	JAN	2026
Beneficiary invitation and 1 st meeting	FEB	2026
Short report summarizing the results of the analysis	MAR	2026
2 nd meeting	APR	2026
3 rd meeting [optional]	MAY	2026

(3) a match score is calculated based on:

- Expertise fit (mentor's experience relevant to mentee's needs)
- Networking potential (mentor's ability to connect mentee with relevant OGs)
- Mentee's preference (mentee's choice of mentor).

4.4 Final Online Capacity Building Seminar

The final structure of the online capacity-building seminar will be determined by February 2026. This event will bring together key multipliers from various European Transnational Region (ETR) countries, fostering cross-regional exchange and collaboration. It will serve as a platform to disseminate BBioNets outputs, strengthen networking opportunities, and support the development of OGs. Additionally, participants will discuss forestry and agriculture challenges, sharing region-specific insights on BBTs to enhance the effectiveness of sub-networks. The seminar's design will ensure meaningful engagement and long-term impact, aligning with the broader goals of knowledge transfer and sustainable innovation.

5 Conclusions

The "BBioNets for Everyone" concept provides a structured approach to fostering inclusivity within the bioeconomy, ensuring that vulnerable groups can actively participate in and benefit from bio-based innovations. Grounded in key EU principles and policies, the initiative translates high-level strategies into concrete actions tailored to the BBioNets framework.

Key conclusions include:

- Integrating inclusivity into bio-economy networks
By embedding inclusivity within BBioNets, the initiative ensures that vulnerable groups are not only considered but actively engaged in the development of bio-based solutions.
- Enhancing capacity through knowledge transfer
Structured KTAs serve as a key enabler for participation, equipping individuals and communities with the necessary skills to contribute to and benefit from the bioeconomy. KTAs constitute a pivotal task within the BBioNets Project, as they bring together the outputs of previous tasks and integrate them through a dedicated methodology. This synthesis is designed to serve both indirect goals -such as promoting inclusivity- and direct ones, including the showcasing of BBTs and highlighting the role of OGs.
- Strengthening socioeconomic and environmental sustainability
By broadening participation, the initiative fosters a more resilient bioeconomy that balances economic viability with social responsibility and environmental stewardship.

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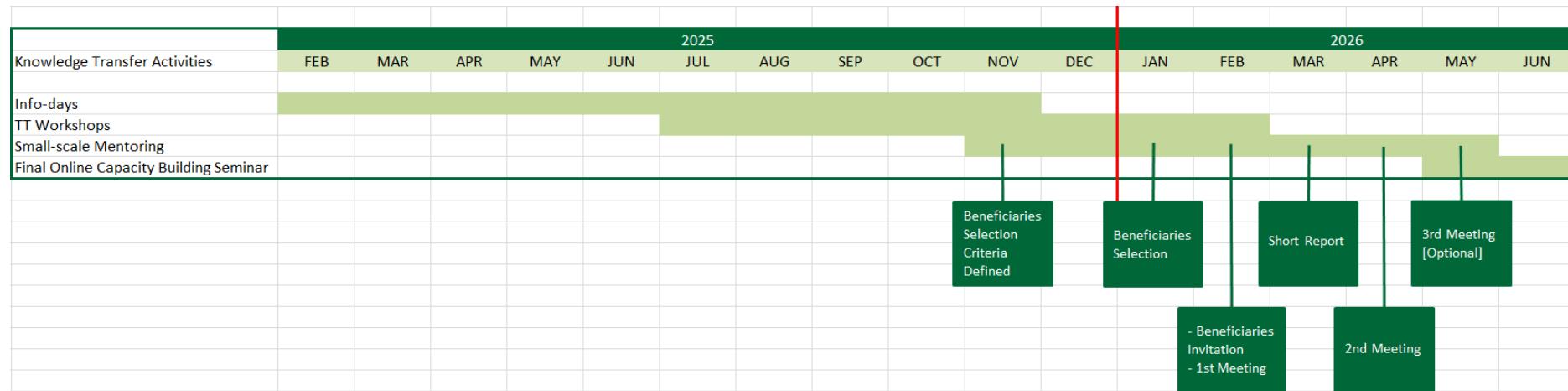
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Appendix I: Timeline of Knowledge Transfer Activities

The Gantt Chart below presents the timeline of the Knowledge Transfer Activities along with the key milestones of the Small-scale Mentoring Activity.

Figure 1: KTAs Gantt Chart & Small-scale Mentoring Activity Key Milestones



Appendix II: BBioNets Knowledge Transfer Activities Reporting

Info-day - Ireland - 1/3

1. *General and Activity Information*
- 1.1. Reporting Partners: MTU; Teagasc
- 1.2. Contact Persons: Carmen Giron Dominguez (Carmen.Dominguez@mtu.ie); Husain Sadeqi (Husain.Sadeqi@mtu.ie); Thomas McCarthy (Thomas.McCarthy@teagasc.ie)
- 1.3. Date of the Activity: 27/02/2025
- 1.4. Location [Physical venue]: Teagasc Ashtown, Dublin, Ireland
- 1.5. Type of Activity: Info-day
- 1.6. Title of the Activity: Industrial Hemp Conference
- 1.7. Duration: 0930-1615
- 1.8. Agenda:
 - 0930 Registration and Networking
 - 1000 Opening Remarks
 - 1020 Keynote Address
 - 1100 Growing Hemp in an Irish Climate
 - 1120 Economics of Irish Agriculture
 - 1145 Panel Discussion One: Shaping the Future of Eco-Friendly Building
 - 1215 Q&A Session
 - 1240 Before Lunch Speaker
 - 1300 Lunch
 - 1345 Panel Discussion Two: Bioplastic to Bioeconomy - Hemp's Role in Sustainable Transformation

Carmen Dominguez - BBioNets

Picture 2: BBioNets Coordination @ Industrial Hemp Conference



1500 Panel Discussion Three: Innovating with Hemp - Exploring Alternative Uses and Shaping the Policy Landscape
 1600 Closing Remarks
 1615 Networking Reception

2. *Participants' Information/List/Contact Info*

2.1. Total Number of Participants: approx. 100

- Advisors/Trainers: 10%
- FAN Member: 2%
- Farmer/Forester Associations/Cooperatives: N/A
- Government Bodies and Policy Makers: 2%
- Industry Representatives: 10%
- OG Members/Representative: NA
- Research Institutions and Universities: 20%
- Unemployed Individuals: N/A
- Women: 40%
- Young Farmers/Foresters: 20%
- General Public: N/A

3. Key Takeaways and Outcomes

BBioNets was invited to speak about the hemp-related Operational Groups featured in the catalogue. The event was organised by the Hemp Department of Teagasc, and BBioNets participated as a guest speaker. In addition, a booth with BBioNets materials was set up, providing an opportunity to engage directly with farmers and foresters interested in bio-based technologies related to hemp.

Picture 3: BBioNets Representatives @ Industrial Hemp Conference



3.1. Main Messages Conveyed:

MTU participated in the panel discussion and had a table/booth for farmers and other stakeholders in the hemp industry to reach to and learn from the outcomes of the project. MTU highlighted in the panel discussion the outputs of SCARABEO OG and COBRAF operational group, leading to farmers to take interest in the outputs of these projects and reaching to join the Irish FAN.

It was highlighted that the outputs of the BBT Assessment Tool for the Irish region showed that amongst the first 20 BBTs prioritised for Ireland, the third one was SCARABEO, an organic and quick water retting technology to extract hemp fibers within 1 or 2 days.

Moreover, it was introduced to the audience the importance of the EIP-AGRI OGs, some of them were not familiar with this funding, while others already knew. Questions were asked about the SCARABEO OG, and introductions were made after the event to the OG owner, so collaborations could be made.

3.2. Impact Assessment:

Farmers and foresters joined the FAN directly on-site by approaching the BBioNets booth. In addition, representatives from the industry and new farmers shared their contact details with BBioNets Irish representatives, expressing interest in being invited to the Irish FAN. Flyers and brochures were distributed, providing information about the project and upcoming Knowledge Transfer Activities. Particular emphasis was placed on the hemp sector as a promising and viable biomass source for Ireland, especially given that the BBT assessment tool identified a hemp-processing BBT (ranked third). Stakeholders -including farmers, foresters, industry representatives, and government officials- showed specific interest in this BBT, known as SCARABEO OG. The importance of establishing OGs was also highlighted, as these locally grounded projects follow a short supply chain model, making them well-suited to support the still-developing hemp sector in Ireland.

4. Supporting Documentation

4.1. Photos/Screenshots from the Event

Picture 4: Industrial Hemp Conference Agenda

Conference Program

Panel Discussion Two: Bioplastics to Bioeconomy — Hemp's Role in Sustainable Transformation
1:45 PM

- Facilitator: Alan Bell — Project Financial Engineering, COO
- Panelists:
 - Larry McGarry — CEO, Carbon Balance Network
 - Peter Quigley — CEO, Athena Blue
 - Dr. Josephine Molvor — Ulster University
 - Carmen Dominguez — BBioNets**

Discussion Points:

- Innovations in hemp textiles
- Biocomposites in automotive and apparel industries
- Sustainable fashion trends
- Expert insights on sustainable fashion and biocomposites
- Potential challenges and areas for further research, including regulatory hurdles, market readiness, environmental impacts

Panel Discussion Three: Innovating with Hemp — Exploring Alternative Uses and Shaping the Policy Landscape
3:00 PM

- Facilitator: Charles B. Kovess — Textile & Composite Industries Pty Ltd
- Panelists:

4.2. Dissemination Materials:

Fliers (approx. 40) about the next Knowledge Transfer Activities to develop were distributed, as well as the project's brochure (approx. 30) and the branding materials (shopping bags, pouches, coasters and pens) made with sustainable materials (over 100 total materials).



Info-day - Italy - 1/3

1. General and Activity Information
- 1.1. Reporting Partner: CREA
- 1.2. Contact Person: Francesco Bassetti (francesco.basset@crea.gov.it); Patrizia Borsotto (patrizia.borsotto@crea.gov.it); Laura Mirra (laura.mirra@crea.gov.it)
- 1.3. Date of the Activity: 13/03/2025
- 1.4. Location [Physical venue]: Agricultural Mechanization Fair (MAG), Savigliano, Cuneo, Italy
- 1.5. Type of Activity: Info-day
- 1.6. Title of the Activity: Bio-based Technologies: The Driving Force for Agricultural and Forestry Innovation
- 1.7. Duration: 1800-1900
- 1.8. Agenda:

1100 Inauguration May 2025
 Savigliano Events Ente Foundation

1430 Agriculture Is Innovation: Sustainability and New Opportunities
 Confagricoltura Cuneo

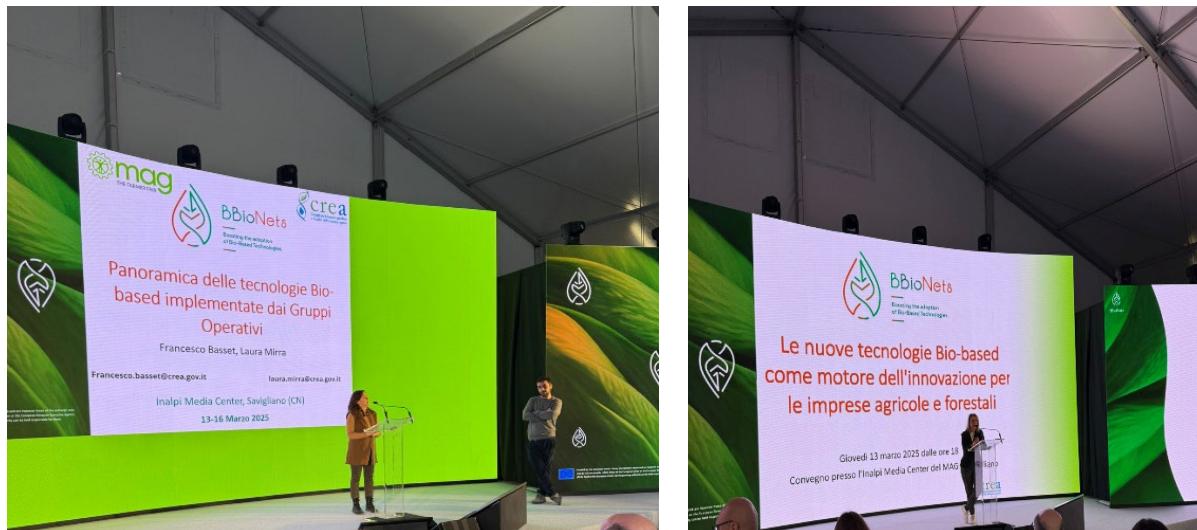
1630 The Core - Field tests
 Nocciolo Service - Agrimpresa

1700 Hazelnut and Chocolate; A Perfect Combination for Every Palate
 CNOS-FAP

1800 New Bio-based Technologies: The Engine of Innovation for Italian Agricultural and Forestry Companies
 CREA
 Overview of the Bio-based Technologies Implemented by the Operational Groups
 [Panoramica Delle Technologie Bio-based Implementate dai Gruppi Operativi]

Francesco Bassetti & Laura Mirra – BBioNets

Picture 5: BBioNets @ Agricultural Mechanization Fair (MAG)



2. Participants' Information/List/Contact Info*
- 2.1. Total Number of Participants: 50
 - Advisors/Trainers: 5%
 - FAN Member: 5%
 - Farmer/Forester Associations/Cooperatives: 40%
 - Government Bodies and Policy Makers: 10%
 - Industry Representatives:
 - OG Members/Representative: 5%
 - Research Institutions and Universities: 30%
 - Unemployed Individuals:
 - Women: 2%
 - Young Farmers/Foresters: 5%
 - General Public: 5%

(*) % breakdown between categories is an estimate; attendance was not collected.

3. Key Takeaways and Outcomes

As part of the Agricultural Mechanization Fair (MAG) in Savigliano (Italy), BBioNets took part by organizing a conference at the Inalpi Media Center. A dedicated info-desk was also set up to share BBioNets materials and gadgets and to connect directly with stakeholders interested in exploring bio-based technologies.

3.1. Main Messages Conveyed:

CREA moderated the conference titled "New Bio-based Technologies as a Driver of Innovation for Agricultural and Forestry Enterprises".

The event began with CREA presenting an overview of the BBioNets project, highlighting its mission and its contribution to the European bioeconomy. In particular, CREA emphasized the role of EIP-AGRI OGs in transferring knowledge related to the valorization of agricultural and forestry biomass residues for the implementation of BBTs.

Following this, CREA provided an overview of the distribution of OGs projects across the Italian territory focused on BBT innovation. The presentation highlighted how the use of biomass is highly context-specific, leading to varied technological approaches depending on local conditions and resources.

CREA then gave the floor to representatives from two (2) OGs:

- (1) *NoviAgri* showcased its work on prototyping precision agriculture tools aimed at improving vineyard production efficiency; and
- (2) *ProBest* presented its approach to generating energy from forestry waste residues.

To conclude the event, a representative of the Piedmont Region outlined the opportunities available in the current call for OGs, encouraging all stakeholders with innovative ideas to actively participate.

3.2. Impact Assessment:

The BBionets conference at the Agricultural Mechanization Fair (MAG) in Savigliano had a strong impact in terms of visibility, engagement, and knowledge transfer. CREA's moderation and the presentations by project partners and OG representatives effectively raised awareness on the role of BBTs as innovation drivers for the agricultural and forestry sectors.

The event attracted a wide audience of stakeholders, including farmers, foresters, and regional authorities, fostering dialogue on context-specific solutions for biomass valorization. Beyond the conference, many participants visited the BBioNets info-desk, where they had the opportunity to receive project materials and gadgets.

This moment also served as a platform to promote the project's core message on sustainability, particularly the importance of reusing materials and transforming agricultural and forestry by-products into valuable resources within the circular bioeconomy framework.

4. Supporting Documentation

4.1. Photos/Screenshots from the Event

Picture 6: Agricultural Mechanization Fair (MAG) Agenda Mechanization Fair (MAG) Agenda



Le nuove tecnologie Bio-based come motore dell'innovazione per le imprese agricole e forestali
 Giovedì 13 marzo 2025 dalle ore 18
 Convegno presso l'Inailpi Media Center del MAG di Savigliano



PROGRAMMA

Le tecnologie che utilizzano biomasse di origine biologica (cipollatura castagno, scarti di potatura legnose ed erbacee, acqua di depurazione, reflui di frantoi, vinacce, siero di latte, letame, etc.) risultano sempre più centrali per lo sviluppo di processi sostenibili da un punto di vista ambientale ed economico. L'importanza strategica del settore richiede la continua ricerca di tecnologie e know-how per la gestione dei residui provenienti dalle biomasse e dalla lavorazione dei prodotti da esse generati.

L'incontro sarà l'occasione per illustrare il progetto HORIZON BBioNets (*Creazione e promozione di reti forestali e agricole per promuovere l'adozione di tecnologie bio-based e lo sviluppo della catena del valore*) che ha l'ambizione di creare una rete tra i soggetti che operano nel settore delle biotecnologie.

18.00- 18.10 Panoramica delle tecnologie Bio-based implementate dai Gruppi Operativi
 Francesco Bassett e Laura Mirra, CREA – Centro PB

18.10-18.25 Innovazione in agricoltura: i Gruppi Operativi del PEI-AGRI
 Paolo Aceto, Regione Piemonte

18.25-18.35 Gruppo Operativo NoviAgri
 Ing. Giancarlo Spezia – Ditta Tecnovit

18.35-18.45 Gruppo Operativo ProBest
 Giorgio Talachini – La Foresta Soc. Coop.

18.45-19.00 Questions and Answers

4.2. Dissemination Materials (if distributed)

Picture 7: BBioNets Info-desk @ Agricultural Mechanization Fair (MAG)



Info-day - Italy - 2/3

1. General and Activity Information
 - 1.1. Reporting Partner: CREA
 - 1.2. Contact Person: Francesco Basset (francesco.basset@crea.gov.it); Patrizia Borsotto (patrizia.borsotto@crea.gov.it); Laura Mirra (laura.mirra@crea.gov.it)
 - 1.3. Date of the Activity: 10/04/2025
 - 1.4. Location [Physical venue]: Turin Agricultural Academy
 - 1.5. Type of Activity: Info-day
 - 1.6. Title of the Activity: "Active Ingredients for the Cosmetic Industry from Waste from the processing of Hazelnuts and Cocoa beans"; Cos.No.F Project Final Workshop
 - 1.7. Duration: 0930-1315
 - 1.8. Agenda:
0930 Registration
1000 Greetings and presentation of the activities of the CREA IT research group in Turin
1020 Goals and experimental plan of the Cos.No.F. Project
Carmela Anna Migliori, CREA - Agro-food Engineering and Transformation Research Centre (Turin), Project Coordinator of Cos.No.F.
1030 Unconventional techniques for the extraction of the phenolic fraction from hazelnut and cocoa processing waste: Potential for the cosmetic industry
Grazia Federica Bencresciuto, CREA - Agro-food Engineering and Transformation Research Centre (Turin)
1100 Coffee break
1130 Analysis of valorization scenarios in terms of circularity and environmental impacts
Stefano Monaco; Alessandro Suardi, CREA - Agro-food Engineering and Transformation Research Centre, Turin and Monterotondo (Rome)
1200 Chemical-physical characterization of the exhausted panel for its energy valorization
Monica Carnevale; Enrico Paris, CREA - Agro-food Engineering and Transformation Research Centre Monterotondo (Rome)
1230 An assessment model for the adoptability of a biotechnology at the regional level (H2020 Project – BBIONETS)
Patrizia Borsotto; Francesco Basset, CREA - Centre for Policies and Bioeconomy (Turin)
1300 Final greetings

2. Participants' Information/List/Contact Info

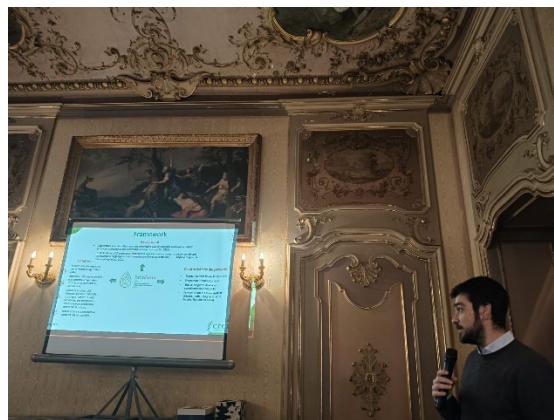
- 2.1. Total Number of Participants: 44 (= 19 in person + 25 on-line)
 - Advisors/Trainers: NA
 - FAN Member: NA
 - Farmer/Forester Associations/Cooperatives: 2
 - Government Bodies and Policy Makers: 5
 - Industry Representatives: 1
 - OG Members/Representative: NA
 - Research Institutions and Universities: 37

- Unemployed Individuals: NA
- Women: 27
- Young Farmers/Foresters: NA
- General Public: NA

3. Key Takeaways and Outcomes

BBionets was invited to speak about the cosmetics-related OGs in the catalog. The event was organized by CREA-IT (engineering and food processing), and BBionets participated as a guest speaker. In addition, a booth was set up with materials from BBionets, providing an opportunity to directly engage with products from BBTs

Picture 8: BBioNets @ Cos.No.F Project Final Workshop



3.1. Main Messages Conveyed:

At the final conference of the Cos.No.F. Project, CREA presented the BBionets Project, outlining its main objectives, the methodology used for the development of the inventory and the assessment tool, as well as the key results achieved.

The presentation began with an overview of the project's aims, focused on mapping, analyzing, and promoting BBTs across various sectors, with particular attention to regional dynamics. CREA described the methodological approach adopted to build both the BBTs inventory and the assessment tool, which serve as the core instruments of the BBioNets initiative.

The main BBTs identified for the Italian context were presented and discussed, emphasizing their relevance in fostering innovation and sustainable practices. Particular attention was given to the cosmetics sector, where the reuse of biomass shows significant potential, both in terms of environmental impact and economic value.

CREA also showcased the BBioNets online platform, accessible through the project's website, which allows users to explore and search for various technologies within the inventory in an intuitive and accessible manner.

The presentation concluded by underlining the strong potential of international cooperation in this field, especially among regions with similar socio-economic and environmental dynamics.

Such collaboration is seen as a key driver for enhancing knowledge exchange and scaling up the adoption of sustainable bio-based solutions.

3.2. Impact Assessment: [How did the activity contribute to BBioNets objectives] _____

The participation of CREA in the final conference of the Cos.No.F. Project had a significant impact on the development and visibility of the BBioNets Project. Firstly, the event represented an important opportunity to disseminate the results achieved within BBioNets and to raise awareness about the role and potential of BBTs, especially among stakeholders and institutions operating at the local and regional level.

The conference also allowed CREA to become familiar with a new project in the cosmetics sector – a field that is currently underrepresented in the BBioNets inventory. This interaction offered valuable insights into the technological processes involved in the cosmetics bioeconomy, as well as its multiple impacts on society and the environment, from reducing waste to creating sustainable value chains. Moreover, the event served as a valuable platform for dialogue and exchange with other researchers and local institutions. This facilitated a broader reflection on the future opportunities for the sector, particularly in relation to funding possibilities and the development of collaborative projects aimed at strengthening regional bioeconomy ecosystems.

Overall, the conference helped to broaden the scope and perspective of BBioNets, providing both content enrichment and strategic connections for its future evolution.

4. Supporting Documentation

Picture 9: Active Ingredients for the Cosmetic Industry from Waste from the Processing of Hazelnuts and Cocoa Beans Agenda

PROGRAMMA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9.30-10.00: Registrazione • 10.00-10.20: Saluti e presentazione delle attività del gruppo di ricerca del CREA IT di Torino • 10.20-10.30: Finalità e piano sperimentale del progetto Cos.No.F. - Carmela Anna Migliori, CREA - Centro di Ricerca Ingegneria e Trasformazioni agroalimentari (Torino), coordinatrice del progetto Cos.No.F. • 10.30-11.00: Tecniche non convenzionali per l'estrazione della frazione fenolica da scarti della lavorazione di nocciole e fave di cacao: potenzialità per il settore cosmetico - Grazia Federica Bencresciuto – CREA - Centro di Ricerca Ingegneria e Trasformazioni agroalimentari (Torino) • 11.00-11.30: Coffee break • 11.30-12.00: Analisi degli scenari di valorizzazione in termini di circolarità e impatti ambientali - Stefano Monaco, Alessandro Suardi, CREA Centro di Ricerca Ingegneria e Trasformazioni agroalimentari, Torino e Monterotondo (Roma); • 12.00-12.30: Caratterizzazione chimico-fisica del pannello esausto per la sua valorizzazione energetica - Monica Carnevale, Enrico Paris - CREA Centro di Ricerca Ingegneria e Trasformazioni agroalimentari – Monterotondo (Roma); • 12.30-13.00: Un modello di assessment per la adattabilità di una biotecnologia a livello regionale (Progetto H2020 – BBIONETS) - Patrizia Borsotto, Francesco Basset – CREA Centro di ricerca Politiche e Bioeconomia (Torino). • 13.00-13.15: Saluti finali

4.1. Photos/Screenshots from the Event



4.2. Dissemination Materials Distributed



Document information

Title	BBioNets – Creation and promotion of Forest and Agriculture Networks to boost Bio-Based Technologies adoption and Value Chain development (GA No 101133904)
Start – end date	1/11/2023 – 31/10/2026 (36 months)
Project type	Coordination and Support Action
Programme	Horizon Europe – Cluster 6
Funding	1,998,636.20 €
Coordinator	Munster Technological University Ms. Carmen Girón Domínguez (carmen.dominguez@mtu.ie)
Project overview	BBioNets constitutes a thematic network that relies on, promotes, and further advances the work carried out by EIP-AGRI Operational Groups (OGs) with respect to management and/or processing of agricultural and forest biomass with Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs) . The project has set up 6 regional Forest and Agriculture Networks – FANs (IE, ES, IT, EL, PL, CZ) that identify local needs, prioritise specific BBTs and share BBT knowledge ready for practice to farmers and foresters, boosting the (re)definition of value chains, stimulating cross-fertilisation beyond borders, and bringing Europe to the forefront of farming, forestry and bioeconomy with economically viable and sustainable practices.

Consortium



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 [..](https://www.youtube.com/@BBioNetsE)

