BBioNets

Boosting the adoption of Bio-Based Technologies

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Reflecting on Our Journey, Sharing Our Legacy

Country: Poland

No. of members: 44

Partner: IUNG Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation State Research Institute



The Polish FAN

Stakeholder Engagement

Types of stakeholders reached: farmers/foresters, advisors/intermediaries, industry, academia, public authorities

Most effective engagement practices used:

- Engaging practitioners through trusted agricultural advisors who serve as familiar entry points.
- Hosting problem-focused, practical workshops and mentoring sessions centred on peer-led solutions.
- Delivering personalised individual invitations tailored to the specific expertise and interests of each stakeholder.

FAN Challenges

- **Structural Sector Limitations:** Dominance of State Forests in Poland limits the pool of private forestry practitioners, while fragmented AKIS actors operate in silos.
- **Network Fatigue & Vague ROI:** Stakeholders hesitate to join additional networks without clear, immediate, and tangible returns on time invested.
- **Information Gaps & Institutional Friction:** Lack of locally adapted, practical Bio-Based Technology (BBT) materials, combined with complex governance and unclear institutional roles.

BBTs Uptake

Barriers

- High Upfront Costs & Unclear Profitability
- Complex & Inconsistent Regulatory Frameworks
- Limited Practical Guidance & Hands-On Support

VS

Enablers

- Financial Incentives & Stable Support Schemes
- Practical Advisory Services & Peer Learning
- Coherent Rules & Recognition of Good Practices

Lessons Learnt

- **Trusted Intermediaries as Key Drivers:** Working through known agricultural advisors and local networks builds immediate trust, making the FAN feel relevant rather than project-driven.
- **Focus on Concrete, Real-World Solutions:** Practical workshops and mentoring centered on field-tested BBTs generate far higher commitment than abstract presentations.
- **Flexible, Low-Bureaucracy Engagement:** Eliminating mandatory sign-up paperwork and accommodating seasonal schedules prevents participation fatigue.

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Key Outcomes



Successful co-creation of practical biomass scenarios linking fruit farms with composting, feed, extraction, and biogas solutions.



Cross-regional visibility for local initiatives like the "Roztoczańskie konopie" Operational Group through Central European exchanges.



Enhanced local adoption pathways by matching compatible agricultural actors into collaborative mentoring groups.

"BBioNets for Everyone" in Practice

Co-creation provided significant value by bridging diverse agricultural and advisory actors, though identifying compatible partners required targeted facilitation. By using structured mentoring and small-group exercises, the network enabled fruit growers and other practitioners with shared machinery and biomass streams (blueberries, pumpkins, woody residues) to develop actionable joint scenarios. Engaging experienced older farmers helped build long-term succession pathways, while supporting active adult leaders naturally inspired youth participation and created visible management roles for women across bio-based value chains.



Most Valuable Activities

- Targeted BBT Workshops & Trainings
- Cross-Regional Exchange Meetings
- Structured Mentoring & Co-Creation Sessions

Main Impact of the FAN

- **Knowledge Transfer:** Delivered structured, practice-ready guidance via regional roadmaps, workshops, and mentoring linked to the BBioNets Knowledge Platform.
- **Higher Technology Awareness:** Expanded stakeholder understanding of the environmental and economic benefits of bio-based technologies through cross-regional meetings and info-days.
- **Value Chain Development:** Co-created actionable biomass scenarios and cooperation models connecting primary producers with processors, biogas plants, and biorefineries.

Recommendations

For improving FAN implementation

- Involve local agricultural and forestry advisors as co-facilitators to tailor outreach.
- Eliminate complex sign-up paperwork and clearly communicate tangible participation benefits.
- Expand field visits, case-based workshops, and direct peer-to-peer exchanges.

For future Thematic Networks

- Select bottom-up themes based directly on urgent practitioner and advisor needs.
- Focus on packaging practice-ready solutions with clear cost-benefit data.
- Embed multi-actor co-creation across all tools, materials, and pilot actions.
- Plan early for post-project continuity via CAP Networks and the EU-FarmBook.

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