

Policy Brief

BBioNets

The Circular Bioeconomy in Greece: What is Needed to Foster the Growth of Bio-Based Technologies

October 2026

A Strategic Agenda for Policy Recommendations

Point of Attention	Target Audiences	Funding Instruments	Timeline
Low stakeholder participation	Farmers, industry professionals, agricultural consultants	Co-financing, CAP (AKIS integration)	Immediate / ongoing
Underutilised agricultural biomass	Underutilised agricultural biomass primary producers, energy communities, public authorities	Green public procurement, tax incentives	Medium term
Institutional & financial deficiencies	Policy makers, banks, research institutes, investors	ESG-linked loans, carbon credits, RIS3	As soon as possible

AKIS: Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems; CAP: Common Agricultural Policy; ESG: Environmental, Social, and Governance; RIS3: Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation

1. Policy Context

The transition of Greece toward a circular bioeconomy faces key structural challenges, including intense institutional fragmentation, regulatory bureaucracy, and long licensing delays. Regulatory ambiguity remains a critical barrier, as agricultural residues are frequently categorised as waste rather than secondary raw materials. Financial hurdles include a substantial funding gap when moving projects from pilot to commercial scale, compounded by financial institutions' hesitancy to back projects due to high technological risk. Furthermore, domestic high-value bio-products face stiff competition from low-priced imported chemical alternatives, while land fragmentation drives up collection and transport (logistics) costs, threatening feedstock supply security.

2. Stakeholder Priorities

1. Low stakeholder participation
2. Underutilised agricultural biomass
3. Institutional and financial deficiencies

3. Methodology

The methodology involved a systematic review of the BBioNets project deliverables focused on regional needs, regional dynamics, and the strategic implementation roadmap, utilising tools like the SWA and Dynamic Matrices. Insights were integrated from regional Forest and Agriculture Networks (FANs) actions, co-creation workshops, and knowledge transfer activities. This factual foundation was subsequently updated and validated through multi-level stakeholder dialogue and dedicated questionnaires during the Policy Workshop held in Thessaloniki on Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

4. Priority Areas for Policy Action

The main recommendations established to drive policy intervention and scale up Bio-Based Technologies include:

1. Institutional shielding and simplification: Immediate regulatory clarification of residues as raw materials, streamlining licensing procedures.

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2. Market regulatory interventions: Implementing Green Public Procurement with mandatory bio-product quotas in public works.

3. Development of a Network of Model Demonstration Units (Lighthouse Farms): Co-funding Lighthouse Farms as Living Labs for learning-by-observation.

4. Integration of bioeconomy advisory services: Upgrading agricultural advisors through specialised certification for techno-economic support.

5. Strategic strengthening of collaborative schemes: Providing targeted incentives for bio-cooperatives to achieve economies of scale.

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7. "Democratisation of Innovation": Launching regional support frameworks to familiarise producers with bio-based pilots.

8. Digital integration of the value chain: Creating a national hub connecting research institutes, producers, and investors.

9. Revision of the support model: Shifting from individual subsidies to funding complete value chains.

10. Activation of green financing tools: Integrating ESG criteria and carbon credits to lower borrowing costs.

In summary...
fostering the growth of Bio-Based Technologies in Greece hinges on successfully bridging the gap between strategic policy frameworks and daily farming realities. By implementing these interconnected market incentives, regulatory simplifications, and regional capacity-building mechanisms, the country can build an ecosystem of trust that unlocks residual biomass value, safeguards investment paths, and drives a sustainable green transition for the primary sector.

Main Recommendations for Greece

Recommendations	Categorisation
Institutional shielding & simplification	Institutional shielding & financing
Market regulatory interventions	Market & incentives
Development of a network of model demonstration units	Strengthening trust & knowledge
Integration of bioeconomy advisory services	Strengthening trust & knowledge
Strategic strengthening of collaborative schemes	Strengthening trust & knowledge / market & incentives
Biomass energy communities	Market & incentives
"Democratisation of Innovation"	Institutional shielding & financing
Digital integration of the value chain	Institutional shielding & financing
Revision of the support model	Institutional shielding & financing
Activation of green financing tools	Institutional shielding & financing

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