

Policy Brief

BBioNets

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

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A Strategic Agenda for Policy Recommendations

Point of Attention	Target Audiences	Funding Instruments	Timeline
Low involvement of forestry sector	Forestry actors & MASAF & local administrations	Recovery & Resilience Plan; EIP-AGRI	1 year
Regulatory uncertainty & complex procedures	Management authorities	Recovery & Resilience Plan	2 years
Coordination among regulations	MASAF & local administrations	TBD	2028-30
Greater recognition to bio-based products	European Commission & MASAF	TBD	TBD
Integrated approach (research, companies, & territories).	Value chain actors & local stakeholders	National & Regional Partnership	2028-30
A more stable market	Management authorities	National & Regional Partnership	2 years
Private funding	Bank foundations	Bank system	As soon as possible

EIP-AGRI: The European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability; MASAF - Ministero dell'agricoltura, della sovranità alimentare e delle foreste; TBD: To be defined

1. Policy Context

In Italy, the deployment of Bio-Based Technologies is part of the transition towards a circular bioeconomy capable of valorising agricultural and forestry resources to produce more sustainable materials, energy and solutions. However, the context is characterised by regulatory fragmentation, complex administrative procedures, insufficient incentives, limited private investment and difficulties in transferring research results to the market.

2. Stakeholder Priorities

Stakeholders identified seven priorities: simplifying rules and authorisation procedures; improving coordination among agricultural, forestry, energy and environmental policies; making bio-based products more recognisable; creating more stable markets; attracting private resources for innovation; increasing the involvement of the forestry sector; and strengthening collaboration among research, businesses and local communities.

3. Methodology

The evidence derives from a preparatory analysis and a consultation based on a Delphi approach, focusing on territorial needs, biomass availability, promising technologies, the regulatory framework, support instruments and funding opportunities. The results were discussed and validated during the online Policy Workshop held on 21 January 2026, with representatives from research, institutions, consulting, agriculture, forestry and local administrations.

4. Priority Areas for Policy Action

The main message is clear: good technologies alone are not enough to let the bioeconomy grow. Transparent and clear rules, support instruments, strong

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territorial networks and communication capable of explaining the value of bio-based products to businesses, citizens and public decision-makers are also needed.

1. Regulatory simplification. Common guidelines, clear criteria, support desks and faster procedures can reduce uncertainty for those seeking to invest or start new projects. At the same time, the opportunities offered by European funds, national strategies and regional measures should be better connected and integrated to support coherent, integrated initiatives.

2. Market confidence. Certification, labelling and information campaigns can help consumers, businesses and public administrations recognise bio-based products and understand their benefits. Dedicated incentives and financial instruments can also reduce the competitive disadvantage compared with fossil-based products.

3. Local value chains. Farmers, forestry companies, researchers, administrations and territorial actors need to collaborate more easily to organise biomass collection, improve logistics and traceability, and develop infrastructure such as bio-hubs and digital platforms. Involving banks and foundations can help make these projects more robust over time.

In summary....
the Italian experience shows that the circular bioeconomy can become a tangible opportunity for agriculture, forestry and local communities, but it requires coordinated action: less fragmentation, greater cooperation, more transparent markets and regulations, and policies capable of supporting innovation from research to practice.

Main Recommendations for Italy

Recommendations	Categorisation
Regulatory simplification & harmonisation	Policy coherence & regulatory simplification
Analysing external coherence and placing European funds in synergy	Policy coherence & regulatory simplification
Governance and cross-sector coordination (Bio-hubs/Platforms)	Policy coherence & regulatory simplification
Certification/labelling schemes & communication/marketing tools	Market development
Measures to bridge the competitiveness gap with fossil fuels	Access to public & private support
Informing & raising awareness of banking foundations	Access to public & private support
Observing existing network in forestry system (cluster legno)	Communication & information

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