

Policy Brief

BBioNets

The Circular Bioeconomy in Poland: 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
Lack of an operational national bioeconomy strategy and a coherent BBT implementation system	Administration, farmers, fruit growers, foresters, food industry, State Forests National Forest Holding	National and EU	As soon as possible
Regulatory inconsistency and legal lagging behind the pace of technological development	Central administration	National and EU	As soon as possible
Complex access to public financing and low participation of private capital	SMEs, advisors	National	As soon as possible
Scattered and poorly integrated implementation instruments and barriers to technology interoperability	Farmers, entrepreneurs	EU, CAP	As soon as possible
Limited participation of industry and finance in BBT decision-making processes	Medium enterprises	National	TBD

CAP: Common Agricultural Policy; EU: European Union; SMEs: Small and Medium Enterprises; TBD: To be defined

1. Policy Context

In Poland, the potential for developing a robust circular bioeconomy is considerable due to the country's strong agricultural sector and significant availability of biomass resources. However, the effective utilisation of these resources depends not only on technological innovation but also on supportive and coherent policy frameworks that enable the development and uptake of bio-based technologies. A national policy workshop was organised to explore how local and national policies can better support the development and uptake of Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs).

2. Stakeholder Priorities

The identified weaknesses and shortcomings that could hinder further development of bioeconomy andimplementation of BBTs were as follows: Lack of an operational national bioeconomy strategy and a coherent BBT implementation system; Scattered and poorly integrated implementation instruments and barriers to technology interoperability; Complex access to public financing and low participation of private capital; Limited participation of industry and finance in BBT decision-making processes; Regulatory inconsistency and legal lagging behind the pace of technological development.

3. Methodology

The identification of priority areas for intervention followed a two-stage participatory methodology, combining analytical inputs from previous project tasks with stakeholder validation. Based on the Inception Document, which summarised preliminary findings of the project and proposed a set of initial Points of Attention and potential policy directions, participants of the workshop representing key stakeholder groups (regional and national policy makers, advisory services, farmers and foresters, researchers, AKIS representatives, other relevant sectoral actors) assessed if the proposed areas for intervention adequately reflected the real challenges faced by the bioeconomy sector stakeholders.

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4. Priority Areas for Policy Action

Building on the validated areas for intervention, participants identified possible policy approaches and actions that could support the development and implementation of BBTs. Recommendations included relevant policy tools, instruments, and incentives suitable for each intervention area, as follows:

1. Development and adoption of a National Bioeconomy Strategy and BBT implementation roadmap: an integrated bioeconomy strategy covering agriculture, forestry, waste management, energy and industry sectors, consistent with the European Green Deal and EU Bioeconomy Strategy, accompanied by a national monitoring system for biomass resources (agricultural, forestry, waste), covering biomass flows and utilisation, together with a list of priority biomass investments and emission reduction targets.

2. Strengthening advisory and implementation support instruments for farmers and SMEs: consolidating existing tools (EPI OGs, advisory services, demos, DSS) into a more comprehensive support system for farmers and small businesses, including the thematic focus of Operational Groups on high value- added bio-products and bioenergy generation.

3. Simplified access to financing and mobilisation of private capital: simplifying funding procedures and improving project evaluation criteria, including environmental and social impacts. Providing application support, especially for SMEs and family farms; introducing preferential financial and tax incentives for biorefineries, biogas and biomethane plants, and niche BBTs. Encouraging private-sector co-financing and support from relevant institutions.

4. Involvement of industry and financial sectors in strategic decision-making on BBTs: establishing permanent national and regional dialogue platforms involving industry, finance, local governments, and academia to shape policies and support programmes, while directing public funding towards high-value-added value chains (bioplastics, advanced biofuels, and biochemicals) in line with the cascading-use principle, prioritising material applications and waste biomass over energy production and energy crops.

5. Streamlining regulations and standardisation of definitions (e.g. biomass): revising interdepartmental regulations concerning biomass and BBTs, removing barrier regulations, standardising definitions (e.g. status of manure and slurry, classification of different biomass fractions); improving the pace of legislative change; introducing framework regulations prioritising the use of waste biomass and residues.

In summary.... the Polish experience shows that the key priorities for strengthening Polish circular bioeconomy are sustainable biomass management, efficient cascading use of residues, clear regulations, local cooperation, and resource flow monitoring to guide investments.

Main Recommendations for Poland

Recommendations	Categorisation
Development and adoption of a National Bioeconomy strategy roadmap	Policy coherence & regulatory simplification
Strengthening advisory & support for farmers and SMEs	Access to public & private support
Simplified access to financing &mobilisation of private capital	Access to public & private support
Increasing industry & financial sector involvement in decision-making	Market development
Regulatory consistency & standardisation	Policy coherence & regulatory simplification

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