BIOEAST Initiative, bioeconomy in the CEE regions

Workshop Biomass for growth: potentials and challenges of bioenergy in the Danube Region

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What are the challenges for the CEE macro-region?

Low performing in:
- Bioeconomy Strategies and Activities
- Bioeconomy SRAs and RI Activities

High potential in:
- Biomass production and increasing value added
- RI excellence and networking
What are the objectives of BIOEAST?

• To improve the sustainable growth of knowledge-based agriculture, aquaculture and forestry in the bioeconomy in the CEE regions.

• The actions we propose:
  • Initiate cooperation
  • Provide evidence base
  • Define research needs
  • Improve skills
  • Develop funding synergies
  • Increase visibility
What have we done for BIOEAST?

• Organized conferences and workshops to:
  • Raise awareness
  • Develop network
  • Identify specific RI needs

• Formulated documents to have a:
  • Vision paper
  • V4+3 Agricultural Ministerial Declaration
  • Scoping paper review
  • Mapping of bioeconomy and RI activities
What have we done for BIOEAST?

• Started a communication activities:
  • Developing a portal for the EIP-Agri implementation in Hungary – hosting BioEast information as well
  • Developing a newsletter
  • Publishing a CEE bioeconomy research catalogue
What are the RI focus areas of BIOEAST?

**Theme 1: Climate change challenges in the Continental and Pannonian Bio-geographical Regions**

- Sustainable intensification by maintaining soil conditions and improving water management;
- Sustainable extensification by maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Improvement of organic farming in terms of production technology;
- The reduction of high dependence on non-renewable energy sources;
- Exploiting the potential for protein crop production;
- Strengthen the Region as a buffer zone against emerging and changing pathogens;
- Sustainable, efficient and competitive freshwater fish production.
What are the RI focus areas of BIOEAST?

Theme 2: Policy and governance challenges in the Continental and Pannonian Bio-geographical Regions

- Motivating knowledge-based modern farming and cooperation among farmers;
- Supporting the generation change of the first entrepreneurs in the agri-food sector;
- Improving supply chain efficiency and increasing its added value;
- Increasing consumer awareness in mistrustful and price sensitive societies;
- Increasing the value added use of agricultural and forestry biomass;
- Experiences of less developed EU regions in social integration challenges such as food, energy or social care security.
Themes I. – Topic 4. The reduction of high dependence on non-renewable energy sources

- In all three regional workshops it was more interesting for researchers
- Challenges - All related to economic viability of bio-gas plants due to:
  - Technological knowledge gaps in operation
  - Low bio-energy demand
  - Knowledge gaps in biomass logistics
- + Horizontal issues:
  - Consumers lack of knowledge
- Suggested actions:
  - Data – information - observatory
  - Classic AKIS tools
Themes II. – Topic 12. Increasing the value added use of agricultural and forestry biomass

• In all three regional workshops it was more interesting for farmers-foresters
• Challenges - All related to sustainability of biomass use:
  • Environmental concerns – soil fertility
  • Economic concerns - lack of high value added processing
  • Social opportunity – using low quality production areas in LDA communities social work program
• + Horizontal issues:
  • Consumers lack of knowledge
• Suggested actions:
  • Data – research - information - observatory
  • Social innovation in local communities
Road ahead – what comes next?

• Further lobbying for widening participation in EU RDI
  • Competition Council
  • PC meetings

• Further mapping of biomass and RI topics and competencies in the region
  • CEE macro-regional RI topic validation conference in end of February, Budapest

• Further network building
  • V4+3 Chambers of Agricultures meeting
  • And where-ever we can
Thank you for listening!

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