

Opportunities in circular bioeconomy for rural areas

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Generating value in rural areas

From rural areas as source of raw materials →
Making value circulate within the rural economy

Added value to rural economy through:

- Local inputs and raw materials
- Local energy
- Local labor force
- Local processing
- Local branding
- Upgrading rural professions and skills
- Valuing by-products locally

Valuing waste and resource efficiency

Identifying environmental and economic benefits in...

More efficient resource use

- Reduce food waste
- Add value through processing

Innovative uses of waste and by-products

- New bio-based products
- Linkages between value chains

Combining benefits at all fronts

- Agri-food waste to generate energy, fertilizer etc

→ Agri-food chains are a part of circular rural economies

Opportunities in circularity: Case Bornholm



Image credit: LAG Bornholm

Key enablers for circular bioeconomy

What is needed?

- Identifying opportunities, finding common vision
- Research and innovation
- Distributing innovation to rural actors, new skills
- Financing
- Intra-chain and multi-sector collaboration – business models
- Market pull – consumer awareness: labels, brands, certificates
- Conducive policy context: Building on territories' strengths and needs
- Functional regulatory framework

Instruments for rural areas are available

Rural Development Programmes (CAP/EAFRD)

- Identifying opportunities → *Cooperation, LEADER, Village renewal*
- Research and innovation → *Cooperation, EIP-Agri Operational Groups*
- Knowledge transfer – distributing innovation to rural actors, new skills
→ *Knowledge transfer, Advisory services, LEADER*
- Financing → *Investments, Farm and business development*
- Intra-chain and multi-sector collaboration → *Producer groups, Cooperation*
- Market pull – awareness → *Quality schemes, Organic production*

+ Synergy with other Structural Funding Instruments

Bioeconomy as a pathway of rural development

Opportunities

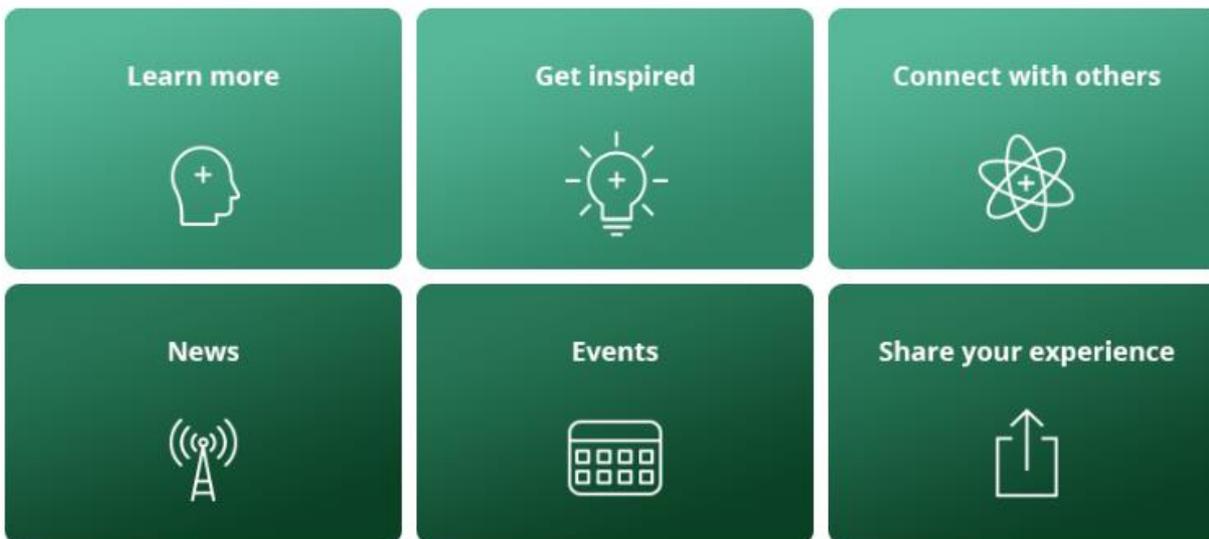
- Circular bio-based value chains can promote jobs and economic growth while preserving ecosystems in rural areas
- Strong momentum – bioeconomy strategy development at all levels
- CAP planning for post-2020 period starting

Challenges

- Will the opportunities for rural areas be seized?
- Need to reach across sectors – food, waste, energy, research, rural development (forest, marine, etc etc)
- Awareness needed at all levels – bioeconomy is a new concept
- Top-down approaches will not work – local vision needs to feed in strategies

ENRD Thematic Group ‘Mainstreaming the Bioeconomy’

- With all stakeholders – including industries
- Facilitating exchange of experiences
- Analysis of the use of RDPs in synergy with other EU instruments → Recommendations



Thank you for your attention!

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