



**BOOSTING RURAL BIOECONOMY
NETWORKS FOLLOWING
MULTI-ACTOR APPROACHES**

**Recommendations from BRANCHES in Spain and
from BioRural EU survey**

**13-14 NOVEMBER 2023
FINAL CONFERENCE**

FAO Headquarters
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy

Daniel Garcia
Projects and Innovation
danielgarcia@avebiom.org



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The Spanish Association for the Energy Recovery of Biomass (AVEBIOM) was established in 2004, in order to promote the development of the Bioenergy sector in Spain.



He **MAIN OBJECTIVE** of the association is to grow the consumption of sustainable biomass, and with it, the sector and our associated companies

FAIRS



DIVULGATION



MARKET - CERTIFICATION



INNOVATION



Contributions from BRANCHES Spain and from BioRural EU Survey

UNTIL
December
2023



<https://www.branchesproject.eu/>



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UNTIL
August 2025

<https://biorural.eu/>



Networking

Identify successful cases

Document success stories

Innovative ideas competition

Transfer (workshops, events)

Documentation Center /Toolkit

Platform of networking

Action plans (barriers, opportunity)

Bioeconomy analysis



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why these projects?

The adoption of enabling innovations for new forms of rural small-scale bioeconomy takes processes of more than 10 and even 20 years!!

We cannot expect a deployment of the circular bioeconomy at that slow rhythm



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VISION AND RECOMEN- DATIONS

1/2

Contributions from



BRANCHES

BOOSTING RURAL BIOECONOMY NETWORKS

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Territorial recommendations of two Ebro Valley workshops with 22 and 50 participants (2022 and 2023)



WORKSHOP 2. April 26, 2022 – Zaragoza

Action plans (barriers, opportunity)

Four main key lines of action



Need to put innovation into practice **bringing the four parts together (quadruple helix)**: business, science, government and society

They are needed **demonstration projects** to facilitate the replication of **innovative practices**: viable, accepted and visitable

Collaborative territorial models are key to develop innovative products and new value chains. The [BiohubCat](#) (local government as dynamiser) and [AgriFoodTe](#) (led by rural bioeconomy R&D centre) are two inspiring territorial initiatives

The **potential users** (farmers, ranchers, cooperatives, agroindustries) **need an effective transfer of viable examples** with **active role** of the technicians of their associations



WORKSHOP 2. April 21, 2023 –Alcarras (Lerida)



PART 1: official reception

PART 2: show case visit Alcarrás Bioproductors

PART 3: Workshop

MEAN WEAKNESS

Fragmentation of knowledge, clusters and programs

→ This is specially crucial for rural actors, less connected to R&D. Usually access to consultants, which are not experts in innovative bioeconomy practices



57 ACTION LINES PROPOSED

Additionally to the discussions, it was evidenced: these actions cannot take place without existing a **FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT**



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MORE INFO in D4.4

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FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENTS:

- **territorial framework where practices and policies favor** the efficient and responsible use of natural resources, the reduction of waste and the minimization of the environmental impact of production and consumption.
- **If not existing it needs of a dynamiser and territorial effort for its uptake**

5 areas to enable favourable environments:

- **Public policies:** Governments must create public policies and strategies, with an active role of well-aware and informed policy makers, **long term vision and infrastructure**, stable strategies and enabling legislation.
- **Actors collaboration:** collaborate and work together to achieve a common goal. This active innovation ecosystem can be powered by the public actors, in collaboration with key actors of the innovation system.
- **Education and awareness:** population must know the benefits of the circular and sustainable bioeconomy, and how they can contribute. More workforce available needed, to be available for rural adopters and facilitators.
- **Inter-territorial cooperation:** including international and intra-national cooperation, **creating links** and synergies: of **temporary projects** in operation, connected to existing frame and needs; of **existing permanent structures**
- **Innovation:** Innovation of biobased solutions enable the transition. Companies must invest in research and development connected to rural needs, and in stable conditions to promote the innovation processes.



VISION AND RECOMEN- DATIONS

2/2

Contributions from



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Consult 422 users and 46 experts in April-June 2023

- In **rural zones** (adopters and non-adopters of innovations)
- **Medium size** (SMEs) or **small** (self-employed, micro business)
- Farmers, breeders, foresters, cooperatives, agribusiness, technology SMEs



Recommendations on policy

Key capacities that are particularly important for all the regions



Collaboration and Networking

Part of the existing problems, according to experts, could be solved by participating in cooperation (marketing and advertising).



Regulatory and Policy Knowledge

These capacities are crucial for the successful adoption and development of bio-based solutions in rural regions. Understanding and navigating the regulatory landscape and policy framework can have a significant impact on the feasibility, implementation, and sustainability of bio-based projects.



Financial Management and Funding Access

Professionals with these capacities can identify and pursue various funding opportunities, such as government grants, private-sector investments, venture capital, and philanthropic support. They can match funding sources with the specific needs of the innovations.



Access to Resources and Infrastructure

These capacities help to assess the Access to a consistent and sustainable Biomass Feedstock, land availability which is making it easier to establish biomass cultivation and production facilities, also transport, energy infrastructure, etc.



Appropriate education

To apply sustainable bio-based solutions, appropriate education, economic knowledge about business plan, costs, marketing are necessary.





Recommendations on policy

Recommendations to foster bio-based innovations in European rural areas :

- **Awareness campaigns and training** (Awareness campaigns, Skill Development Programs, Collaboration with Educational Institutions, Knowledge Sharing, Tailored incentive programs at the regional level, Demonstrations that showcase in regions, Effective communication and knowledge transfer).
- **Policy and Regulatory Support** (Incentives for Rural Entrepreneurs, Streamlined Regulatory Processes, Clear and supportive regulatory frameworks, Supportive Legislation, Considered regional disparities, Tailored interventions, Tailored strategies, Financial Support and Access, Feedback mechanisms and evaluation systems).
- **Community Engagement and Collaboration** (Collaborative Ecosystems, Local Entrepreneurship Support, Facilitated engagement, Multiactors approach, Peer-to-peer conversations, Advisory and brokerage services).
- **Market Access and Promotion** (Market analysis and forecasting, Sustainability standards and certifications, Market demand, Growth of customer demand in regions, Market agreements).
- **Research and Development** (Allocated resources for R&D, Technology transfer, Available tools and models).

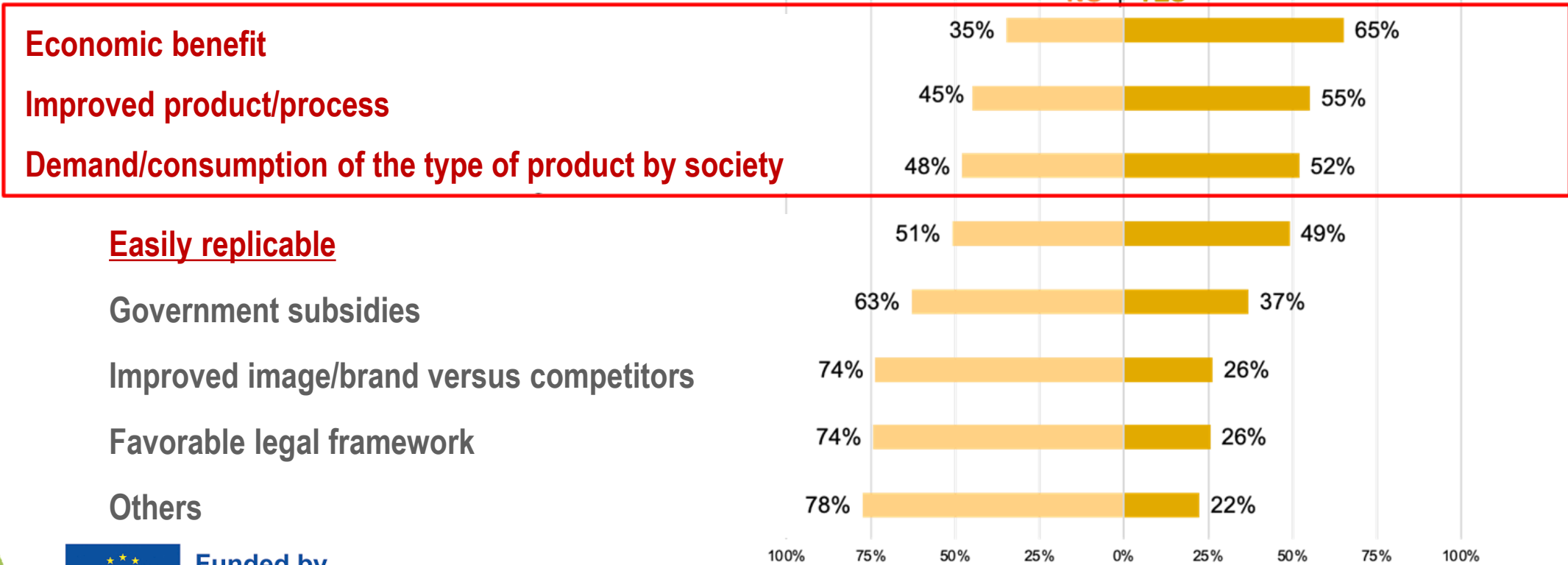




But... How to tailor the policies

More effective incentives to adopt innovations in the circular bioeconomy

The most effective path to promote adoption are practical aspects!!





But... How to tailor the policies

Barriers

Lack of knowledge/vision, lack of consumer interest, technical capacity

Tendency to adopt

Small, remote, basic training level...

→ Less tendency to adopt

Needs

→ They need more consulting and training than entering into R&D processes





But... How to tailor the policies

Recommendations
applicable to new
policies / instruments

The results suggest for rural areas:

- It is crucial **advice, support, training**.
- they need **different innovation processes** of standardized R&D projects
- Concentrate innovations on **practical aspects**: replicability, economic return, product improvement

Interpretation...

- **Micro/small** company / self-employed **without** department of R&D
- **Vision** limited / lack knowledge
- **less connected** to R&D / facilitators
- used to **accompaniment** / consultants
- Capacity of **leverage investment** shorter





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Spanish Biomass
Association

