




# Overview of state of play on bioeconomy in BULGARIA

National contact point

Bulgaria

Workshop “Facilitating development of bioeconomy policy – needs and gaps”

Brussels, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019



# What is currently available for a bioeconomy strategy ?

- inter-ministerial working groups – **MAFF and MES**
- political commitments – **A Draft Bioeconomy Strategy for the Agrarian Sector (agriculture, forestry and fishery)**;
- expert groups - **1 group**, representatives of MAFF and Agricultural Academy
- studies, research projects - **JRC, Agricultural Academy**
  - Joint project “Advancing Sustainable Circular Bioeconomy in Central and Eastern European countries: BIOEASTsUP” (Horizon 2020)**
  - National Scientific Programme: “Healthy Foods for a Strong Bioeconomy and Quality of Life” (MES)**
- stakeholder platforms - **stakeholders identified and listed in the Draft Strategy. Platforms of research institutions-stakeholders are taken into account.**
- networks - **Research Organisations, Agrarian Universities; NAAS; other stakeholders have to be attracted**
- communication initiatives: discussion fora; conclusions of conference; etc. - **included in the Strategy’s Action Plan**



# Share of main bioeconomy sectors in GVA and employment, 2015

	GVA, mil. EUR	%	Persons employed 000'	%
Bioeconomy	3 741	100 .	414	100.
Agrarian sector	<b>1 874</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>50.4</b>
Agriculture	1 642	43.9	177	42.9
Forestry	210	5.6	29	6.9
Fishing and aquaculture	21	0.6	3	0.6

- More than **half** of the GVA and employed persons pertain to the agrarian sector
- Food, beverages and tobacco industry takes **28%** of the GVA and **23%** of employed persons
- Bio-based textile reaches **9% and 15%**, respectively
- Other sectors (wood products, biofuels, chemicals, plastics, paper, electricity) have less than **13%** in the GVA and less than **11%** of employed persons.

Source: Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy



# A Draft Bioeconomy Strategy

**Descriptive analysis:** production and distribution of biomass, research capacity and readiness to integrate the bio-economy into educational, vocational and scientific programs

**SWOT analysis:** findings


**Strategic goals:**

- ▶ SG 1: Sustainable management and development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries for sustainable production and provision of renewable resources
- ▶ SG 2: Research and innovation, partnerships for exchange and transfer of innovations, development of experimental infrastructure and access to it
- ▶ SG 3: Improving knowledge and skills

**Action plan:**

7 impact areas, 22 activities, expected results, indicators, responsible institutions, funding sources


**Areas of synergy with the Strategic Plan 2021-2027:** coupled and sectoral direct payments, interventions in the field of rural development



# What are the responsible public bodies and relevant stakeholders?

- ▶ Please indicate who are (or could be, if not yet decided) the responsible institutions involved in the bioeconomy strategy and their role according to procedures and national regulations – **MAFF, responsible for the development and implementation of the National Bioeconomy Strategy; MES and MAFF, responsible for the integration of bioeconomy into the education and science.**  
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- ▶ Please indicate the stakeholder groups or platforms you could (or it would be useful to) involve in the development of the bioeconomy strategy – **platforms of farmers, forest owners, entrepreneurs, associations, NGOs, etc., on introduction of the circular bioeconomy and environmental protection at regional and local level; platforms for synergies between different sectors of the bioeconomy;**  
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# What are the short-term and long-term external policy support needs

Five main policy support needs were identified

- ▶ Conducting information events and demonstration practices;
- ▶ Development of small-scale biomass processing technologies;
- ▶ Outlining policies on the marketing of the bio-based products;
- ▶ Coordination between expert groups from different ministries;
- ▶ Improvement of MAFF capacity to develop and implement the strategy.

# What are the short-term and long-term external policy support needs ?

	Process related support	Technical assistance support	Strategy drafting support
Building Block 1: Describe the bioeconomy concept at national level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitator: guiding the different sectors/politics to the strategy (EU + national) ;</li> <li>2. Workshops. Demo-farms</li> </ol>		
<b>Building Block 2: Assess current state of bioeconomy and ambition within the EU Strategy</b>		Mutual Learning on strategy building for policy makers and decision makers	
<b>Building Block 3: Define bioeconomy measures, platforms and initiatives to achieve targets</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Align policies to promote demand for biomass product markets</li> <li>2. Building capacity within the ministry</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inter-ministerial groups. How?</li> <li>2. Support the development of small scale bioeconomy processing technologies</li> </ol>	How to build CLUSTERS (regional)
<b>Building Block 4: Leverage on the national and EU policies for sustainable bioeconomy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. High level forum</li> <li>2. Workshops on bioeconomy related policies</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inter-sectoral collaboration between different policy &amp; technical expert groups</li> <li>2. SCAR WGs mirror at the level of the member states</li> </ol>



# Actions to advance the development of the bioeconomy strategy

- ▶ **National challenge** - setting up Inter-ministerial groups and coordination the development of the national strategy
- ▶ **European, regional and national expectations** - clarification and differentiation of the objectives of the circular bio-economy in the agrarian sector and biomass processing industries