

16:00 World Café 2: Forest bioeconomy governance (Lauri Hetemäki)

Key Takeaways

1. Concept of the Bioeconomy needs to fit to the context of the society

- Climate change & SDGs; 75% of EU citizen live in urban areas; circular economy
- Bioeconomy is not an end itself, rather it is a necessary tool to achieve Paris Agreement and SDGs

2. Narrative is the key

- Narratives have been increasingly recognized as important in engaging society behind different movements and changes
- Formulate an evidence-based circular bioeconomy narrative to show how it helps to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and achieve the Paris Agreement and SDGs. The CB narrative should be especially appealing to the highly urbanised areas, where 3/4 of the EU citizens live.

3. Do not assume bioeconomy to be sustainable per se

- Address and design policies to support all dimensions of sustainability, and monitor sustainability.
- This also means to give more attention to the environmental and social dimensions than has been the case in the past bioeconomy strategies.
- Understand that you cannot have bioeconomy without biodiversity, because biodiversity is a key feature supporting forest natural capital, and a basic condition for any biobased product or service. On the other hand, in a modern society bioeconomy is often necessary to support biodiversity. For example, when we are adapting forests to climate change.

4. Maximize synergies, minimize trade-offs between different forest bioeconomy services

- Forest bioeconomy services (=ecosystem services): provisioning (products, bioenergy), regulating (climate, flood control, water supply, ...), cultural (spiritual, recreational, aesthetic, educational, ...) and supporting (biodiversity, pollinating, nutrient recycling, ...). They should all be included and advanced under circular bioeconomy strategy and policies
- There can be synergies and trade-offs between forest bioeconomy services
- *A key question for advancing circular bioeconomy is, how can the synergies be made stronger and trade-offs minimized with policies*

For more details, see: Hetemäki, L., Hanewinkel, M., Muys, B., Ollikainen, M., Palahí, M. and Trasobares, A. 2017. Leading the way to a European circular bioeconomy strategy. From Science to Policy 5. European Forest Institute. https://www.efi.int/sites/default/files/files/publication-bank/2018/efi_fstp_5_2017.pdf