

GBEP Side Event at EUBCE 2021

29 April 2021, 16:15 -18:15 CEST, online

Biomass for landscape restoration: how can the bioeconomy contribute to the UN Decade on ecosystem restoration?

Concept Note and Agenda

2021-2030 was declared the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with the aim of preventing, halting and reversing the degradation of ecosystems worldwide. Implementing landscape restoration requires integrated and coherent policies that tackle not only environmental issues but also socio-economic causes. The bioeconomy – the use of renewable biological resources from land and sea to produce food, materials and energy – not only depends on ecosystem services for its functioning but it also has the potential to positively contribute to the restoration of the landscapes that host these ecosystems.

The sustainable production of bioenergy, as part of the broader bioeconomy, can contribute to reducing the pressures on natural ecosystems, whilst helping to restore degraded land and improving local health and livelihoods. On the other hand, the use of traditional wood fuel – i.e. the inefficient use of fuelwood and charcoal for cooking and heating – is a large contributor to landscape degradation as demand increases and the sustainable supply of fuelwood cannot keep up. Therefore, sustainability is a key concern; better management practices and improved technologies, along with the policies that incentivize these practices, are required to ensure a transition to sustainable biomass production and use.

The Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) has been investigating some of the positive impacts of the production and use of biomass for energy to contribute to landscape restoration. This workshop will showcase some promising examples from around the world, in order to draw out similarities and understand the factors that contribute to the enabling environment for these practices to be replicated elsewhere.

EUBCE Topic 4: Sustainable Bioeconomy: Impacts and Policies

Organizer: Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) – Maria Michela Morese (Michela.morese@fao.org) and Constance Miller (constance.miller@fao.org).

- 16:15 – 16:25 Introduction to the Global Bioenergy Partnership and its work on the linkages between bioenergy and landscape restoration
Dr. Maria Michela Morese, GBEP Executive Secretary
- 16:25 – 16:40 Overview of the potential contribution of bioenergy, as part of the broader bioeconomy, to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
Dr. Annette Cowie, University of New England, Australia
- 16:40 – 18:05 Moderated panel discussion: *Taking lessons learned from case study examples*
Key note speaker and moderator: Dr. Tiziana Pirelli, CREA, Italy
- Panel Speakers:
- The unrealised potential of *Prosopis juliflora* in the bioenergy sector in Kenya
Dr. Sola Phosiso, ICRAF
 - The potential of bioenergy production on low-ILUC lands in Europe: the experience of the BIKE project
Dr. Calliope Panoutsou, Imperial College of London
 - Alternatives to the overexploitation of woody biomass: case studies on pellets from agricultural residues
Mr. Christian Rakos, Chairman, World Bioenergy Association
 - Bioenergy by-products: External sources of organic matter to mitigate climate change and improve soil health
Dr. Maria Luz Cayuela, Spanish National Research Council
- 18:05 – 18:15 Concluding remarks
Ms. Myrsini Christou, Head of Biomass Department, Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving CRES