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# Policy Brief on Bioresources

## Who we are

We are eseia, the European Sustainable Energy Innovation Alliance, an association of **leading EU organisations operating in the field of sustainable energy systems**, from energy provision to energy consumption in research, teaching and innovation. The cross-sector membership of research, education, business and political partners is dedicated to advancing innovation to implement renewables and sustainable technologies in Europe as well as on a global scale.

eseia believes Europe will rely on regionally focused sustainable energy systems to drive a vibrant and innovative and sustainable society. In turn this will call for regions to be responsible for their environment, renewable resources and energy infrastructure and services and will require regional administrations to act as the institutions in charge of planning, selecting, funding and implementing energy solutions.

## What we aim for

eseia is dedicated to setting the agenda for a European discourse between scientists, business, politics and interested actors about the **most appropriate use of bioresources**. For regional success eseia believes that it is vital to improve the cooperation between science, industry and politics as research, education and innovation are key drivers of competitiveness, employment, sustainable growth and social progress. eseia therefore promotes the formation of full value chain clusters addressing major challenges and fostering regional energy systems within the European Union.

## Our contribution

eseia bioresource experts have prepared a **documented innovation research agenda** for cutting edge systemic solutions to integrate the use of bioresources. The agenda is prepared as **discourse book** on bioresources. It addresses and analyses the controversies associated with and accompanying bioresources, in particular competition between three bio sectors crucial for Europe's future: feed and food provision, energy provision and the provision of materials. The discourse book argues for a rational utilisation of bio-resources requiring careful balancing of the competition between central elements of European economy and harnessing possible synergies between them in order to gain optimal societal benefit and European competitiveness on the global level.

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## Our core message on bioresources

- Bio-resources constitute the most valuable and versatile source of renewable, sustainable natural income. Their generation shapes the interaction between society and ecosystems to a large extent. The services derived from bio-resources like nutrition, energy and bio-materials are central to society's well-being as well as to economic success.
- Limited land and aqueous ecosystems will force Europe to become extremely efficient in the use of bio-resources. The knowledge and technological progress Europe has to summon to meet its formidable challenge of limited bio-resources can make it a global leader in technological as well as social innovation for sustainability.
- The preservation of eco-system functions provides the framework for any bio-resource utilisation. Within this framework priority shall be given to the provision of nutrition followed by other services that can only be fulfilled by bio-resources. Other pathways of utilisation are contingent on the spatial environmental, social and economic context.
- Rational utilisation of bio-resources requires informed, competent and effective regional actors. Providing regions with the know-how as well as decision structures and political clout to meet the formidable challenge of managing bio-resources will be decisive for Europe's future competitiveness.

## What we ask from you

### (Colleague) scientists and students

- Read our discourse book and add to the discourse on sustainable bioresource utilisation and development in Europe from an academic point of view.
- Challenge our analysis and findings in the Discourse book on positioning, utilisation and potential of bioresources for Europe
- Start implementing our suggested R&D agenda together with industry, policy and local communities

### Agriculture

- Become aware of your significance as core sector in the biobased economy and start designing and implementing the transitions needed in farm routines and landscape management to be prepared for a sustainable biobased future
- Become aware of your significance as a core sector in balancing competition in the utilisation of bioresources and start developing new approaches and methodologies for this challenging and highly relevant position
- Start implementing our suggested R&D agenda together with science, policy and local communities

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### Bioresource industry

- Close the bioresource supply chains as much as possible at a regional scale
- Develop new sustainable bioresource value chains at the regional level
- Start implementing our suggested R&D agenda together with science, policy and local communities

### Bioresource policy

- Develop and implement clear and transparent guiding institutional frameworks for regional sustainable bioresource utilisation
- Line up with other layers of government for the benefit of a consistent, supportive, effective and efficient bioresource policy across Europe
- Start implementing our suggested R&D agenda together with science, industry and local communities

### The local community

- Continue accommodating and managing your own local environment and economy and try to integrate a sustainable utilisation of local bioresources as much as possible
- Line up with agriculture and bioresource industry to jointly develop new products and services for the benefit of a sustainable local environment
- Start implementing our suggested R&D agenda together with science, industry and policy

### Further reading

