



Food and Agriculture Organization  
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# Contribution of forests and forest products to a circular bioeconomy

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# UNECE and FAO Circular Bioeconomy related decisions

## **UNECE Decision E/ECE/1503 C (70) on Promotion of Circular Economy and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources.**

“Recognizes with appreciation the efforts made by relevant sectoral committees and by the secretariat of the Commission to further strengthen its work in this field for impactful and measurable solutions that promote a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources”.

### **43rd FAO Conference**

“Stressed the importance of circular bioeconomy for sustainable agri-food systems and highlighted the need to discuss this topic within governing bodies and technical committees of the FAO, bearing in mind the ongoing collaboration between FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the Committee on Forests (COFO) on the linkages between agriculture and forestry”.

# 2023 – Study series on circularity

The focus of the studies was identified through consultations with the **UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products** and the **FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-Based Industries** (ACSFI) between February and August 2023 and supported by the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forests Management, Economics and Statistics during its session in June 2023. The series includes the following studies:

- **Sustainable and circular bioeconomy in forest-based industries. How to get there.**
- Circularity concepts in the wood construction sector, as an example of a long-lived products value chain.
- **Circularity concepts in the pulp and paper industry, as an example of a group of commodities with a short life span.**

# 2023 - Promotion of circular bioeconomy work

- **Brussels Briefing “Strengthening the forest-based bioeconomy – a contribution to a more sustainable future with forests”** organized jointly by the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU, FAO Liaison office with the European Union and Belgium and FAO’s Forestry Division in Jun 2023
- **2nd World Forum on Urban Forests Pre-forum Webinar “Exploring strategies towards inclusive cities”** organized by FAO’s Forestry Division in Oct 2023
- **Briefing to Member States on Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC-2) and solutions to address plastic pollution in forestry and agriculture** organized by the FAO Liaison Offices in Geneva (LOG) and New York (LON), together with the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB)
- **Social Media**

# 2023 – Capacity building

- **UNECE/FAO National Forest Policy Dialogue on “The future of the forestry and wood-based industries sector in Türkiye in the transition to a sustainable bioeconomy”** was co-organized with the General Directorate of Forestry (OGM) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye and the Turkish members of the FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSF), and the FAO SEC/Türkiye Office.
- **The meeting was attended by more than 110 participants and was opened by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.**
- Concrete recommendations and follow-up actions are being under consideration by Türkiye.

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- **REU - Promoting bioeconomy and sustainable management of agricultural chemicals** by enhancing knowledge and awareness in the region through development of the strategic knowledge products.
  - **Study on Promoting Bioeconomy through Agriculture Practice in Eastern Europe and Central Asia** was prepared jointly with FAO REU.

# 2024 – Possible way forward

- New studies based on identified needs (currently interest in bioenergy and bioplastics).
- Promotion of existing studies at external events (currently invitation to IUFRO World Forestry Congress)
- Further integration with bioeconomy and agriculture relevant topics, required by FAO strategic priorities framework
- National and regional policy dialogues, upon request
- Capacity building, knowledge-sharing events
- Infographics, social media campaigns

# Points for consideration

- The Committee and the Commission are invited to: (a) Review and consider the main findings and action points of the two studies contained in (ECE/TIM/2023/INF.4-FAO:EFC/2023/INF.4) and (ECE/TIM/2023/INF.5- FAO:EFC/2023/INF.5);
- (b) Share information on how the circular bioeconomy is implemented in their countries;
- (c) Recommend that the secretariat:

# Decisions

The Committee and the Commission recommended the secretariat to:

- (a) Finalize the two studies as United Nations official publications by the end of 2023 and published in 2024;
- (b) Upon availability of resources, share knowledge and build capacity based on the already existing UNECE/FAO studies in this area;
- (c) When possible, and upon availability of resources, mainstream circularity concepts in forest-based industries in ongoing product related work.





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# Thank you

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