

Coopid



Integrating a biorefinery in the activity of a cooperative: the potential of olive tree leaves

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The problem

The olive oil sector generates significant quantities of by-products, excellent raw materials for conversion into biofuels. The evolution of the sector has urged cooperatives to seek technological solutions to move towards more sustainable business models in the use of their by-products beyond energy use.

The solution

The development of new technologies allows for the valorisation of underused by-products. In more detail, **olive leaves**, a lignocellulosic waste with great potential, as it is possible to add value to them prior to its use as fuel.

A collaborative process developed with technological partners in biorefineries located in the cooperative's industrial complex allows for the creation of new business opportunities and revenue streams. For example, cooperatives can develop ingredients with high concentrations of oleuropein, hydroxytyrosol and triterpenes and innovative formulas with market applications in food, pharmaceuticals, animal nutrition and cosmetics.

Benefits

- 1. The cooperative - biorefinery - technology alliance results in an optimal, profitable and sustainable business model.** Biorefineries located at the site of biomass generation are a key instrument of the EU-driven bioeconomy.
- 2. Win-win strategy:** the cooperative provides access to raw material and provides infrastructure to the complex, optimising logistical aspects and the technology partner provides technology development. This results in highly competitive bioproducts.



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Project
Coordinator



Communication
leader





Recommendations

1. Analyse, from the point of view of sustainability, the use of by-products.
2. Collaboration with a technological partner allows the development of alternative ways of valorisation and access to new knowledge.
3. The cooperative can offer raw materials, infrastructure and logistics.
4. Establishment of partnerships: joint business model for a biorefinery



About COOPID and this practice abstract

This practice abstract was elaborated in the COOPID project, based on the EIP AGRI practice abstract format. © 2023

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Goal: foster knowledge transfer among primary producers and the uptake of biobased business models in the EU primary sector.

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