

Gender in the EU bioeconomy

Traditionally, the sectors and activities involved in the bioeconomy are sectors with stronger male participation:

“The **bioeconomy** covers all sectors and systems that rely on biological resources – animals, plants, micro-organisms and derived biomass, including organic waste – as well as their functions, principles, (...) and interlinks.” -EU Commission.¹

For example:

96% of the agricultural business in Europe are family funded, however, only...

30% of the administrators of this properties are women.² As a reference, about **51% of the rural EU population are women**.³

20% of the forestry workforce are women.⁴

26% of the aquaculture workforce are women.⁵

Why does this happen? Do women involve themselves less in agricultural work?

Latest statistics show that:³

1. There is an **under-reporting of women's work** in agricultural activities, particularly when undertaking **unpaid agricultural work** & household chores.
2. Women hold more the role of “care-takers” of children and elderly people, commonly offering “**invisible support**” to the “**farming activities**” of the family unit.



However, all in all, it is clear that women play a key role in rural families, communities and economies.

In 2014, in the EU-28, agriculture was the

7th largest employer of women (3.3 % of the total employment).³

What does the future look like for women in the bioeconomy?

“Women can be at the **forefront of innovation and diversification in rural areas** by developing new activities, production lines and services.”
- European Institute for Gender Equality.³

In other words, in the coming years the development of biobased, circular business models in rural areas will have a positive impact over women's participation within the sectors involved in the bioeconomy.

Here, the **COOPID project** supports the participation of women in the bioeconomy by:

1. Actively including female primary producers & developing **attractive Success Story Showcases** for them.

2. Connecting with relevant organisations promoting women in agriculture, forestry & aquaculture.

More at coopid.eu



(1) European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Bioeconomy : the European way to use our natural resources : action plan 2018, Publications Office, 2019, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/57931>
(2) COPA -COGECA on Gender equality: https://copa-cogeca.eu/gender_balance. (3) European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2016). Gender in agriculture and rural development, MH-01-16-799-EN-N 978-92-9493-583-0 10.2839/749063
(4) FOREST EUROPE (2019). Thematic session III: Social equity and gender issues. (5) Euronews. (2019). The invisible women of Europe's fishing industry

