



The COOPID legacy

Lessons learnt & recommendations for primary producers, academia, and policy makers.

The content of this document has been prepared by Innovarum, based on the Deliverable prepared by Food & Bio-Cluster Denmark (D4.6) for the COOPID project on recommendations and lessons learnt.

The COOPID project: highlights

The COOPID project focused on promoting the bioeconomy and knowledge transfer in the primary production sector. The project utilized innovative dissemination techniques, including ambassador visits, workshops, and digital channels.

The **success factors for primary producers in the bioeconomy** included increased value of by-products, competences in innovation, application of innovative technologies, access to capital, the role of cooperatives, renewable energy, circulation of nutrients and carbon, and new ways of cooperation in the value chain.

Recommendations for primary producers include embracing the bioeconomy, fostering innovation, utilizing innovative technologies, accessing capital, leveraging cooperative advantages, and prioritizing renewable energy and nutrient circulation. Recommendations for academia and research involve conducting research on various topics related to the success factors. Policymakers are advised to provide support, encourage collaboration, promote education and training, address consumers' preferences, and ensure policy coordination.

About the COOPID project

[COOPID](#) is an EU funded project, coordinated by [Cooperativas Agro-alimentarias de España](#) where 11 partners from 10 different countries take part. COOPID proposes an innovative and effective strategy to inspire primary producers and stimulate the uptake of inclusive and sustainable bio-based business models in the European primary production sector, considering regional & sectorial particularities.



COOPID is funded by the EU Commission H2020 Programme under the topic CE-FNR-15-2020 (Grant Agreement no: 101000519) and counts with an overall budget of 2 million euros.

Key focus areas of the COOPID project

The key focus areas of the COOPID project were:

1. **Bioeconomy Clusters:** The project aimed to establish and engage with local COOPID bioeconomy clusters, which consisted of a multistakeholder group of participants, with a major focus on reaching primary producers, particularly those organized in cooperatives.
2. **Knowledge Transfer:** The project focused on innovative dissemination techniques and peer-to-peer communication to facilitate knowledge transfer within the primary production sector. It aimed to share information, experiences, and success stories related to the bioeconomy with primary producers.
3. **Success Factors:** The project identified and analysed the success factors of selected bioeconomy case stories. It aimed to understand the factors that contributed to the success of these cases and draw lessons from them.
4. **Recommendations:** The project provided recommendations for primary producers, academia and research, and policymakers based on the lessons learned and the identified success factors. These recommendations aimed to support the development and growth of the bioeconomy, improve collaboration, and address challenges in the sector.
5. **Collaboration and Networking:** The project emphasized the importance of collaboration and networking among different stakeholders in the bioeconomy, including primary producers, cooperatives, universities, private companies, and policymakers. It aimed to foster cooperation and knowledge-sharing among these actors to drive innovation and development in the bioeconomy.
6. **Innovative Dissemination Techniques:** The project utilized innovative dissemination techniques, such as ambassador visits, workshops, and digital channels, to effectively communicate and disseminate information about the bioeconomy to primary producers and other stakeholders.
7. **Value Addition and Waste Biomass Utilization:** The project focused on increasing the value of by-products and waste biomasses in the bioeconomy. It explored ways to improve their utilization and valorisation, including through biorefining processes at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
8. **Policy Coordination and Support:** The project highlighted the need for policy coordination and support to promote the bioeconomy. It recommended the development and execution of bioeconomy action plans at the EU and national levels, as well as continuous support, collaboration, and education in the bioeconomy sector.

What specific elements helped COOPID succeed?

1. **Peer-to-peer communication:** The project recognized the value of communication between primary producers. It emphasized the importance of sharing experiences and knowledge among farmers.
2. **Agri-food cooperatives:** The project highlighted the role of agri-food cooperatives as key intermediaries in reaching primary producers. It emphasized the benefits of cooperative organizations in the bioeconomy.
3. **Quality content production:** The project emphasized the importance of producing high-quality content to disseminate information effectively. It recognized the value of well-produced videos and other communication materials.
4. **Digital presence:** The project emphasized the need for a strong digital presence to reach primary producers and other stakeholders. It recognized the importance of utilizing digital platforms and technologies for communication and knowledge transfer.

Recommendations provided for primary producers

The recommendations provided for primary producers in the COOPID project are as follows:

- 1. Increased value of by-products and waste biomasses:** Primary producers are advised to see themselves as protagonists in the bioeconomy and recognize the value of by-products and waste biomasses. They should strive to improve the utilization and valorisation of these resources, considering the potential for biorefining processes and the importance of co-ownership and cooperatives in keeping the value among primary producers.
- 2. Competences in innovation:** Primary producers are encouraged to engage with the right experts and develop competences in innovation. They should transmit clear and rigorous messages to the population, learn from real cases in the bioeconomy, and direct their activities towards developing new and innovative solutions for the integrated and circular use of their products.
- 3. Access to capital for required investments:** Primary producers are advised to focus on developing a strong business model that has financial backing at the beginning. While external financial resources may be necessary, it is important for primary producers to feel involved and take ownership of their business model.
- 4. Role of cooperatives:** Primary producers are encouraged to consider cooperatives to realize a large-scale circular economy. Cooperatives can add value and services to their products, differentiate them in the marketplace, negotiate better contracts, and access the benefits of joint services. Primary producers should embrace cooperation as a formula to face future challenges and improve their presence in both local and global markets.
- 5. Renewable energy:** Primary producers are recommended to explore opportunities to produce and sell renewable energy. This not only contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions but also offers economic benefits. Primary producers should consider the incentives and opportunities available in the energy and agricultural sectors where they intersect.
- 6. Circulation of nutrients and carbon back to primary production:** Primary producers are advised to prioritize the circulation of nutrients and carbon back to primary production. This can be achieved through practices such as utilizing water from sewage sludge and optimizing the utilization of biomasses in a cascading manner.
- 7. New ways of cooperation in the value chain:** Primary producers are encouraged to give importance to all partners in the value chain and consider cross-sectoral collaboration. They should collaborate with experts from different sectors, such as the food industry, to provide expertise and explore new ways of cooperation in the bioeconomy value chains for new products on the market.

Overall, the recommendations aim to empower primary producers in the bioeconomy, promote innovation and collaboration, and enhance the value and utilization of their products and resources.

Recommendations provided for academia & research

The recommendations provided for academia and research in the COOPID project are as follows:

- 1. Economic and ecological assessment of by-products and waste biomasses:** Academia and research are recommended to conduct assessments of the economic and ecological value of by-products and waste biomasses for bioeconomy primary producers and/or cooperatives. This includes studying the models for improving their utilization and valorisation. The focus should be on double or triple biobased production with new crops/strategies and researching biorefining processes and novel technologies for waste utilization, valorisation, and adding value.
- 2. R&D on biorefining processes:** Academia and research are advised to invest in research and development on biorefining processes. This involves studying and developing innovative technologies and practices for the efficient utilization and valorisation of waste biomasses.
- 3. Research on applying novel technologies and practices:** Academia and research should focus on researching how to apply novel technologies and practices for waste utilization, valorization, and adding value. This includes exploring innovative approaches and practices that can enhance the utilization and value of by-products and waste biomasses in the bioeconomy.
- 4. Improve utilization of biomasses (cascading):** Academia and research are encouraged to contribute to improving the utilization of biomasses through cascading approaches. This involves studying and developing strategies to optimize the utilization of biomasses in a cascading manner, where the maximum value is extracted from the biomass at each stage of its utilization.

The recommendations highlight the importance of academia and research in advancing the bioeconomy by conducting research, developing innovative technologies, and providing knowledge and expertise to support the utilization and valorisation of by-products and waste biomasses.

Recommendations for policy makers

The recommendations provided for policymakers in the COOPID project are as follows:

- 1. Provide support for innovation activities:** Policymakers are advised to design policies that directly support innovation activities in the bioeconomy. This includes providing funding opportunities for costly innovations and offering financial incentives such as subsidies or tax credits for research and development initiatives.
- 2. Update the normative framework:** Policymakers are recommended to update the normative framework to ensure harmonization across Europe. This includes areas such as life cycle assessment (LCA) assessment and the classification of business sectors.
- 3. Encourage collaborative production forms:** Policymakers are advised to encourage collaborative production forms in the bioeconomy. This can be achieved by promoting the utilization of water from sewage sludge and supporting the creation of networks, clusters, and other forms of collaboration.
- 4. Provide appropriate education and training activities:** Policymakers are recommended to promote appropriate education and training policies that involve different actors and consider specific country needs. This includes working on different education levels and providing access to online courses such as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).
- 5. Support public advisor services:** Policymakers are advised to stimulate and encourage public advisor services in the primary sector through local policies. This can be done by providing funding and other resources to support public advisor services, especially in agriculture.
- 6. Emphasize the environmental benefits of bio-based products:** Policymakers are recommended to support policies that emphasize the environmental benefits of bio-based products. This includes promoting the use of inputs from by-products, exploring new types of products (such as meat-based alternatives made from hemp), and encouraging the development of innovative bio-based products.
- 7. Coordinate policies:** Policymakers are advised to ensure policy coordination in the bioeconomy. This includes addressing inadequate knowledge transfer through farmer-to-farmer communication and ready-to-use materials, facilitating networking for farmers with other stakeholders in the bioeconomy through local clusters, and raising awareness of the bioeconomy potential through the promotion and discussion of selected case stories.
- 8. Address consumers' preferences:** Policymakers are recommended to address consumers' preferences through media and communication campaigns. These campaigns can play a pivotal role in defining new trends among the population and targeting a more sensitive audience.

These recommendations aim to provide policymakers with guidance on how to support and promote the bioeconomy, encourage collaboration, and create an enabling environment for innovation and sustainable practices in the primary production sector.



COOPID EU Project Coordinator: Susana Rivera Pantoja (Cooperativas Agro-alimentarias de España). Email rivera@agro-alimentarias.coop

Communications Partner: Africa Pardavila, Communications Manager at Innovarum. Email Africa.pardavila@innovarum.es. Phone +34 615860178