

NOTAT

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Fra: Fstab
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Consultation on upcoming EU Bioeconomy Strategy

This [initiative](#) of replacing the present 2018 strategy [A sustainable bioeconomy for Europe](#) aims to offer solutions for a circular and climate neutral economy, boosting the EU's prosperity and competitiveness within planetary boundaries.

It will help citizens, regions and key economic sectors (including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, biomanufacturing and biotechnologies industries and services) make the best and most sustainable use of biomass. This will keep material and products in the economy for as long as possible, reconciling planet, people and prosperity.

Feedback period: 31 March 2025 - 23 June 2025

Commission adaptation is planned for the fourth quarter 2025.

Feedback from NIBIO, published on the EU Commission web page for public consultation

Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO), an independent research institute, is to contribute to food security and safety, sustainable resource management, innovation and value creation through research and knowledge production within food, forestry and other biobased industries.

We strongly support the European Commission's upcoming strategy for the bioeconomy. This initiative is of great relevance not only for the EU but also for associated countries like Norway, where bioeconomy is a key pillar in the transition to a low-emission society and a more sustainable use of natural resources. Below our overall comments:

1. Strengthening the Bioeconomy to Meet Climate Goals

The Strategy must position bio-based solutions at the core of the EU's decarbonization pathway, leveraging sustainably sourced biomass for food, materials, chemicals, and energy while safeguarding ecosystems. A sustainable circular bioeconomy is essential for achieving climate

neutrality by 2050, aligning with the objectives of the European Green Deal. In this context, agriculture plays a pivotal role as a primary provider of renewable biological resources and should be fully integrated into the Strategy to support both climate mitigation and rural development.

2. Deepening Circularity Across Value Chains

To truly close resource loops, the Strategy should prioritize the resource-efficient and circular use of biological materials—transforming biomass, including agricultural residues and side-streams, into high-value products. Promoting cascading use, minimizing waste, and enhancing soil health through circular agricultural practices will reduce environmental pressures while strengthening long-term productivity and resilience.

3. Integrating Circular Principles in Agricultural Food Production

The transition to a circular bioeconomy must fully embrace circular principles within food systems. This includes promoting sustainable agricultural practices that reduce input dependency, enhance nutrient recycling, and valorize by-products throughout the food chain. Developing local and regional food loops, improving food waste valorization, and supporting regenerative farming models will not only lower the sector's environmental footprint but also reinforce food security and resilience. By embedding circularity into food production, the Strategy can align agricultural productivity with environmental stewardship.

4. Fostering Cooperation for Scale-up and Resilience

We urge that the Strategy include mechanisms for strengthening pan-EU cooperation, involving farmers, primary producers, industry, SMEs, academia, and regional authorities. Cross-sectoral collaboration, including between agricultural stakeholders and bio-based industries, will be vital to spread innovation, improve infrastructure, and create robust, climate-smart value chains across Europe.

5. Boosting Production and Market Deployment

To meet both climate goals and growing demand for bio-based materials, the Strategy should create supportive framework conditions to scale up sustainable production—particularly in the agricultural sector. This includes regulatory clarity, market-based incentives, access to finance, and alignment with the *Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)*, the *Clean Industrial Deal*, and the *Competitiveness Compass*. Enabling farmers and rural communities to participate actively in the bioeconomy will be key to unlocking its full potential.

In summary, a strengthened EU Bioeconomy Strategy—firmly rooted in circularity, cooperation, and sustainable agricultural production—will be instrumental in addressing climate change, boosting green innovation, and achieving Europe's environmental and competitiveness goals. We trust that these considerations will inform the final Strategy and NIBIO stand ready to contribute further during the consultation process.