Unfolding the potential of the bioeconomy – the role of biorefineries.

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The SCAR

- The **Standing Committee on Agricultural Research** (SCAR) was established in 1974 through a Regulation of the Council of the EU.

- The Committee currently represents 37 countries, mainly through ministries or organisations such as research councils, from all EU Member States and observers from Candidate and Associated Countries.

- SCAR has grown to become a respected source of advice on European agricultural and research related to the wider bioeconomy.

- ec.europa.eu/research/scar/index.cfm?pg=home

CWG Integrated Biorefineries

- Setting up the CWG was decided at the SCAR Plenary meeting on 6 June 2013. The group was kicked off on 13 November 2013.

- It brought together delegates from 14 Member States (AT as observer; BE, DK, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, NL, NO, PL, SE, UK; DE as coordinator).

- Three meetings were held, surveys among the members were performed, and biorefineries as well as pilot plant facilities were visited.

Good examples

- Biorefinery is already there !
- Visit for instance Pomacle-Bazancourt
- Or small scale in Lelystad (Cassava in Nigeria)
- Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant (Gent)

Hurdles and challenges

- How to support the whole innovation process
- Stimulate industry to make real investments in Europe.
- Better use of each other research facilities
- Research gap on small scale and/or multi input refineries
- Better knowledge dissemination by networking.

MIND THE RESEARCH GAPS

CWG Integrated Biorefineries

- Conclusions and recommendations to national funders and the EU Commission:

  – Better use of exciting infrastructure

  – Embrace different kinds of biorefineries with a regional perspective

  – Access to finance for demo scale activities

Recommendations

1. Target funding instruments to capture the complete innovation cycle up to demonstration

There is a ***gap in funding for demonstration activities***, at Member State and EU level. For SMEs, it is difficult to get even small amounts of finances for certain activities and investments, despite their innovation potential. ***Access to finance for demo scale activities (including equipment, CAPEX) must be expanded and made easier.***

2. Use other instruments to create market opportunities

The large amount of R&D spending has built the basis for a technology push but ***there have been too little activities geared to market creation***. Other instruments such as procurement, subsidies, regulation, "Green Deals" must be used to create markets (in a similar way to the BioPrefered Scheme in the USA).

3. Involve existing facilities in research programs, give vouchers for access to SMEs

A number of open pilot and demonstration facilities are available. ***The access to these existing installations must be made possible EU-wide, especially with financial means for SMEs***. ERA-Nets should involve pilots and demonstration facilities, vouchers for use of pilots and other open access facilities for development should be made available under Horizon 2020.

Recommendations

4. Network existing infrastructures

The existing infrastructures would benefit from an exchange of knowledge, closer coordination and developing a common voice. ***Networking of existing infrastructures*** could be facilitated via a dedicated call under the Infrastructures part of Horizon 2020. This could also lead to the identification and closing of gaps that might exist.

5. Embrace different kinds of biorefineries with a regional perspective

Biorefineries can come in different shapes and sizes (specialized vs. general; centralized integrated vs. small-scale, mobile) offering a multitude of business and employment opportunities, especially at regional level. ***All of them should be considered valid options in implementing the bioeconomy and should receive appropriate funding.***

https://www.scar-swg-sbgb.eu/documents

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