

ACTION PLAN TO ENHANCE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN THE CBE JU PROGRAMME AND THE BIO-BASED VALUE CHAINS

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In September 2021, the members of the Task Force revised the different actions of the Action Plan in view of the new Circular Bio-Based Joint Undertaking (CBE JU).

It includes an overview of the actions already implemented under call 2020 and the actions to be considered for the CBE JU. Most of the actions will be taken in consideration and will be materialized as part of the CBE JU Annual Work Plans.

The actions to be considered for the CBE JU are focused on four main elements:

1. Reinforcement of the participation of the agriculture sector in the annual work programmes.
2. Support the agriculture sector during the implementation of projects.
3. Dissemination and communication activities with specific focus on the agriculture sector.
4. Synergies with other programmes and initiatives such as the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) and the Common Agriculture Policy networks such as the EIP-AGRI.

ANNEX: ACTION PLAN TO ENHANCE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN THE BBI JU PROGRAMME AND IN THE BIO-BASED VALUE CHAINS.

Actions for CBE agreed during the Task Force meeting of 1 & 2 September 2021

Recommendations/Actions		Who	State of play (BBI JU Call 2020)	Actions for CBE JU
2. Drafting the annual calls and topics description to foster the participation of the agricultural primary sector	2.1. Agricultural producers or its representations to be further involved in the process of work programme's drafting.	BIC/EC		<p>BIC members and associations (among them COPA-COCEGA, European Farmers and European Agri-Cooperatives) that support the Vision "The circular bio-society in 2050" are already involved in the process of updating the SRIA.</p> <p>It is foreseen a better incorporation of primary sectors in the design of value chains as well as more inclusive participation at programming level by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication campaigns. • Deployment groups. - to bring in the voice of the primary sector community and other feedstock providers. • BIC confirmed that informal dialogue with the important stakeholders is ongoing.

	2.2. Focus on topics with higher TRL (6-8) and on agricultural practices	BIC/EC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBE JU AWP's will consider draft topics to contribute to sustainable agriculture practices where farmers would have a real role to play as part of the value chain. • The implementation of projects with activities closer to the market will help to involve the agricultural partners better and develop business models. • CBE JU topics will focus on higher TRL (DEMO/FLAG).
	2.3. Encourage the involvement of farmers and its associations as members of consortia	BIC/ EC / BBI JU	Already Included in some topics of AWP 2020	<p>CBE JU will reinforce the communication strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise awareness of the benefits of being part of bio-based value chains/member of consortia. • To target members of the COPA-COGECA but also regional farming communities. • By targeting the farmer's advisors: multiplication of information as they can translate it to the farming community. • By the use of the EIP-AGRI network; organization of workshops that ensures the participation of the agriculture sector to gather information on needs and challenges and translate them into topics requirements.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIC to continue encouraging the inclusion of farmers/agri actors as strategic partners.
	2.4. Smaller projects with simplified reporting requirements	BIC/EC		<p>Simplification of reporting requirements is not feasible because of HE rules. However, efforts could be made to assist farmers in the reporting through improvement of the role of the advisors.</p> <p>Innovation support services, including a tool-box on reporting, could be provided through a CSA funded by CBE JU or HE.</p>
	2.5. Topics based on a bottom-up approach	BIC/EC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIC confirmed that there is already a bottom-up approach at strategic level as there is consultation on the SRIA/AWP. • Topics cannot be completely based on a bottom –up approach because specific needs require to be defined in the topic text. • Under the CBE JU it will be considered a competition based on prizes which could allow broader/open topics.
	2.6. Expected impact of projects (topic text) refer to impact on rural areas that should be monitored during the duration of the projects	BIC/EC/ BBI JU	Impacts & benefits for the primary sector were already requested in the 2020 AWP in the topic texts and in the introductory pages.	This action will continue in the CBE. It will be monitored through the KPI & Impact Questionnaire.



	<p>2.7. Request participation of farmers from different geographical areas.</p>	<p>BIC/EC</p>	<p>Under BBI JU, specific actions were implemented in the context of the strategy for widening participation in countries with lower participation (e.g. BIC country reports, BBI JU participation in info days in countries with low level of participation in BBI calls).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBE JU will promote the participation from different geographical areas through the topic text and through steering BIC members towards, e.g. Eastern European participation. • Strategic outreach is already ongoing by BIC, e.g. by making country reports with info about availability of biomass, main actors etc. • To continue making use of the country factsheets at info days to increase awareness and engagement.
	<p>2.8. Encourage establishment of “advisory board of farmers” as part of the management structure of the project. The recommendation also suggested to provide funding for facilitators through a flat-rate/lump-sum in smaller projects</p>	<p>BIC /EC/ BBI JU</p>	<p>Different forms of collaboration and representation of the primary sector was already included in the 2020 AWP via the topic text and in the introductory pages.</p>	<p>To monitor the results of projects funded under Topic BBI.2020.SO1.D1. which already included this requirement “<i>it is recommended...to foster the role of advisors or innovation brokers to support (‘speak on behalf of’) primary producers during the project implementation</i>”. E.g. Waste2Func.</p> <p>CBE JU will consider funding for facilitators through a flat-rate/lump-sum in smaller projects.</p>
	<p>2.9. Foster the inclusion of cooperatives or other forms of cooperation as members of consortia</p>	<p>BIC /EC</p>	<p>Different forms of collaboration and representation of the primary sector was already requested in 2020 AWP via the topic text and in the introductory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forms of collaborations introduced in the BBI JU Call 2020 will continue in the CBE JU AWP. • CBE JU will consider a periodic update on business models, e.g. a

			pages. It also included cooperatives.	workshop which presents recipes for success. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBE JU will ensure that relevant topics are properly addressing cooperatives and will consider how to define the scope of the topic.
	2.10. Strengthen the environmental and climate requirement of the projects	BIC /EC	BBI JU AWP already requested the contribution to positive environmental and climate impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contribution to environmental and climate impacts will be also requested in the CBE JU AWP. • In addition, benefits should be communicated including information on how farmers in the framework of a project can improve sustainability.
	2.11. Request proposals with longer time horizons to record mid-term impacts in agricultural contexts	BIC /EC	Topics under BBI JU were opened to proposals with different duration depending on the needs of the action proposed.	CBE JU will foster the continuation or replication of projects and its upgrade to a higher TRLs.
	2.12. Foster the role of “farmers facilitators” during the implementation of the projects	BIC /EC/ BBI JU	Different forms of collaboration and representation of the primary sector was requested in the BBI JU 2020 AWP via the topic text and in the introductory pages. It also included in role of farmers facilitators.	CBE JU will ensure the continuity of this action.
3. Supporting agricultural sector via the evaluation process, and making the most	3.1. Invite farmers as experts’ evaluators	BBI JU	During the evaluation process, the BBI JU programme office ensured that expert evaluators had different profiles to cover	CBE JU will improve as much as possible the involvement of farmers as evaluators and will also consider farmer’s advisors as evaluators.

of the monitoring of ongoing projects			the expertise required for the evaluation of the topics. This also included agriculture expertise when relevant. Having farmers as expert's evaluators was a challenging task.	
	3.4. KPI & Impact questionnaire with easier (to understand and reply) questions for farmers	BIC/EC/BBI JU	The KPI questionnaire was updated to monitoring the participation of the agricultural sector. The KPI questionnaire was already updated during the preparation of this study.	Based on the experience of the BBI JU the KPI monitoring will be enlarged in the context of the CBE JU.
5. Achieving better visibility of the BBI JU initiative	5.1. BBI JU joint actions with local actors	BIC /EC/ BBI JU		<p>CBE JU will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of the local language when promoting CBE JU activities. • Continue the interaction with the national contact points and the use of their networks.
	5.2. Appointment of farmers champions among project beneficiaries to act as BBI JU ambassadors	BBI JU/EC AGRI		<p>CBE JU will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design specifics dissemination campaigns. • Consider some official form of recognition while avoiding 'green-washing'.
	5.3. Encourage dissemination actions towards farmers during the implementation of the project	Project beneficiaries/BBI JU		CBE JU will reinforce the use of social campaigns with this objective.



	5.4 Use young farmers' networks to increase the visibility of BBI JU	BBI JU and the association of young farmers (CEJA) in cooperation with DG AGRI.		To strength relations with CEJA. It is a very important recommendation as young farmers are open to new practices/business models. Inputs from young farmers will be important for future programming under the CBE JU.
6. Making the most of BBI JU by linking with other EU measures	6.1. Promoting synergies with other initiatives (EIP – AGRI and Rural Development Programmes)	EC/BIC/BBI JU		CBE JU will consider potential actions to promote synergies with the future CAP networks (EIP-AGRI, operational groups funded under the Rural Development Programmes and the multi-actor approach concept already implemented under the H2020 programme.
	6.2. Identifying needs that can be implemented by policy makers at EU level	EC		CBE JU will gather policy recommendations from funded projects. It will be considered relevant communication and disseminations activities.

ACTIONS EXCLUDED FROM THE ACTION PLAN: CONSIDERED NOT FEASIBLE ACTIONS

	Recommendations	Feasibility	Who	Status
1 Defining funding priorities addressed at promoting the use of agro-biomass	1.1 Dedicated budget lines for agro-based projects	Not feasible	n.a	n.a
	1.2 Projects with agro-based biomass should have preference if the use of several type of biomass are allowed	Not feasible	n.a	n.a
	3.2. Evaluation criteria to award specifically the participation of farmers	Not feasible	n.a	n.a
	3.3. Collection of data for the KPI & impact questionnaire to be done by each single beneficiary	Not feasible	n.a	n.a
2. Drafting the annual calls and topics description to foster the participation of the agricultural primary sector	2.13. Compensatory payments to farmers beneficiaries	Not feasible	n.a	n.a
4. Adapting the participation rules to the particularities of the agricultural primary sector	4.1 Modify funding rates in RIAs (100% funding for cooperatives that have the status of large companies)	Not feasible	n.a	n.a
	4.2. Modify funding rates in IAs (100% funding rate for small and medium farmers)	Not feasible	n.a	n.a
	4.3. Develop specific instrument : small grants with simplified reporting requirements	Not feasible	n.a	n.a