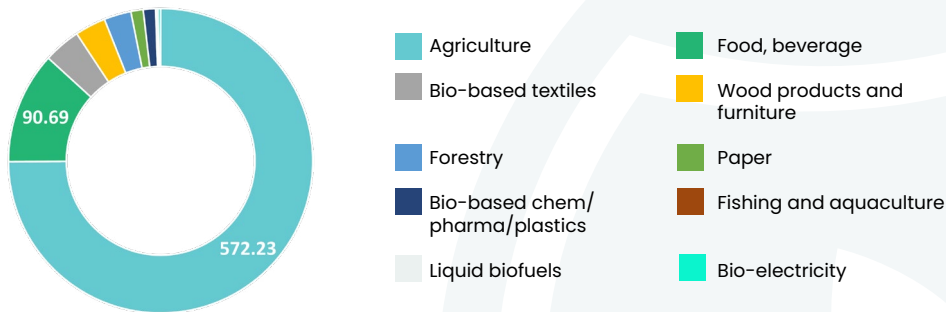


Bulgaria's bioeconomy features a landscape where agriculture and forestry covers a substantial portion of the land available for biomass production (57%). The agricultural sector plays a prominent role in domestic biomass production, contributing significantly to the country's bioeconomy. Despite this, Bulgaria's R&D intensity in the bioeconomy sector remains relatively low at 0.8%. Bulgaria's bioeconomy relies primarily on its agricultural sector and woodlands for biomass production. However, with limited R&D investment in the bioeconomy, the country faces a challenge in further development and valorization.

Bulgaria's objectives for the bioeconomy include mainly support for biomass production, digitalization and knowledge transfer for bioeconomy, and promotion of sustainable practices in a broader sense, including the bioeconomy sector. Increasing R&D investment to stimulate innovation and technological advancements in biomass utilization is less pronounced. The main document is the Strategy and Action Plan for the transition to a circular economy of the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2022-2027

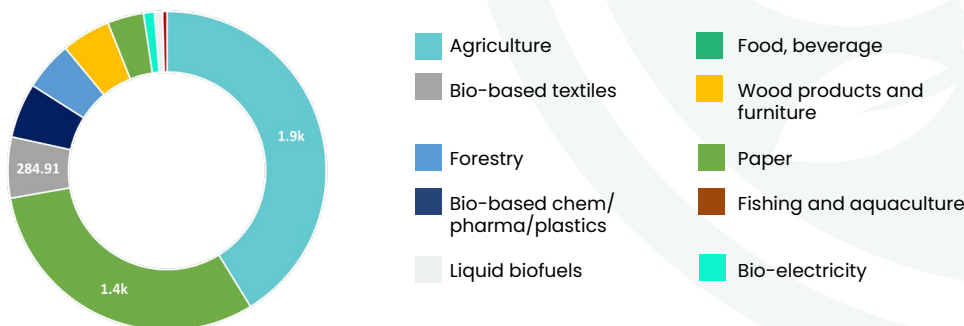
Bioeconomy: persons employed by sector

2020



Value added by sector (million €)

2020



Publication date
2022

Responsible authorities



Ministry of Environment and Water

Bulgaria
Strategy and Action Plan for the transition to a circular economy 2022-2027

The strategy sets out 3 objectives: a green and competitive economy; less waste and more resources; an economy that benefits consumers. Specific measures are planned, with implementation focusing on correcting imbalances and overcoming obstacles to achieving the objectives.

Measures from 2024-2027 encompass funding for resource-efficient technologies, support for SMEs in eco-design, the establishment of re-use centers, and vocational training for vulnerable groups in repair-related activities.

Permanent measures throughout the Action Plan period include private sector involvement in waste recycling, waste prevention, new waste technologies, controls on unregulated waste disposal, support for renovation companies at re-use centers, and advanced waste separation and treatment technologies. R&D activities are mentioned but less integrated.

Dominant sectors

Agriculture
Food, Feed and Beverages
Waste and water management

Other related strategies

- Draft Integrated Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Bulgaria (2018)
- National Development Strategy 2030 (2020)
- Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (2022)

 **Bulgaria****Policy instruments****Strategic Plan for Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas 2023-2027**

Encompasses almost all sectors of bioproduction and agriculture while the means for R&D remain less supported.

**National Action Plan for Bioproduction**

Supports organic bioproduction, utilization of biomass by-products, employment

**Aquacultures and fishery Program**

Addresses support to fishery, aquacultures and processing; blue economy and environment protection, R&D, energy and resource effectiveness and circular economy; digital technologies and quality.

**Rural Areas Development Plan**

Addresses support to rural areas, like measures to increase employment, digitalization, improvement of human resources, including bioeconomy sectors.

**Fund of funds**

Fund Manager of Financial Instruments in Bulgaria (FMFIB) operates as a Fund of Funds (FoF); it allocates targeted public funds from European Union programmes and national co-financing, using special financing schemes (financial instruments), including for bioeconomy sectors.

Bioeconomy in Bulgaria**Collaborative structures****AgroHub**

Development of the agri- and food sector , potential for access to technological solutions and services supporting digitalisation, support to farmers and companies for process automation, resource efficiency, smart production.

BESCO – The Bulgarian Entrepreneurial Association

Acts as a bridge between startups, private and institutional investors, the govt. and other stakeholders in the innovation industry. 1st role is to upgrade the current Bulgarian legislation and propose contemporary market-driven policies based on innovation and progressive thinking, access to talent, access to capital.

Tech Tour

Community platform that connects tech entrepreneurs with investors, experts, coaches, and regions to realize their bold ambition and build successful partnerships, Event management, market information, community building, stakeholder involvement

Export Hub Bulgaria

Market entry support, events, knowledge transfer & market information, access to programmes for export potential development for Bulgarian SMEs, Knowledge transfer, supporting SMEs to access international markets

Agrarian University – Plovdiv

National centre of agricultural science and education in Bulgaria; TTO, research, sectorial development support, scientific support to policy making

Showcase**Mission Green Bulgaria**

MOVE.BG initiated Green Restart Coalition that brought together over 50 of Bulgaria's leading experts in the fields of innovation economy, energy transition, bioeconomy and biomass, smart cities, nature-based solutions and sustainable finance, motivated by the desire to turn Bulgaria into one of the green and innovative leaders in Europe