

PA #2 The Greek Bioeconomy and supporting knowledge on the transition to a local circular bioeconomy

The Greek Bioeconomy sector encompasses the food and agriculture sector, forestry, water, bioenergy and biomaterials sector, employing 672,000 people, and an added value of €12 billion. The main bioeconomy sector in Greece is the food and agriculture sector accounting for the majority of biomass supply (around 90%) and use (for food and feed) as well as employment and turnover. These are still largely dependent on linear production systems though increasing efforts are being made towards sustainable use and sustainable production. Greece has a large forest area (6.6 million hectares) but this currently represents a small portion of the bioeconomy and has the potential, if managed sustainably, to become a major supply of biomass and support for rural areas.

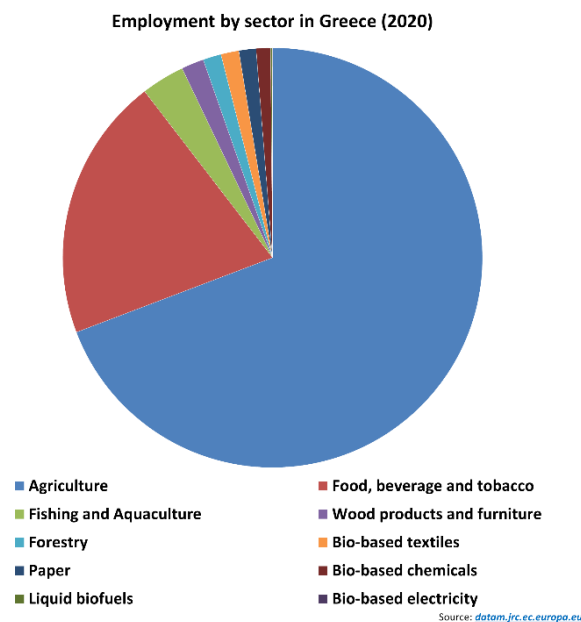
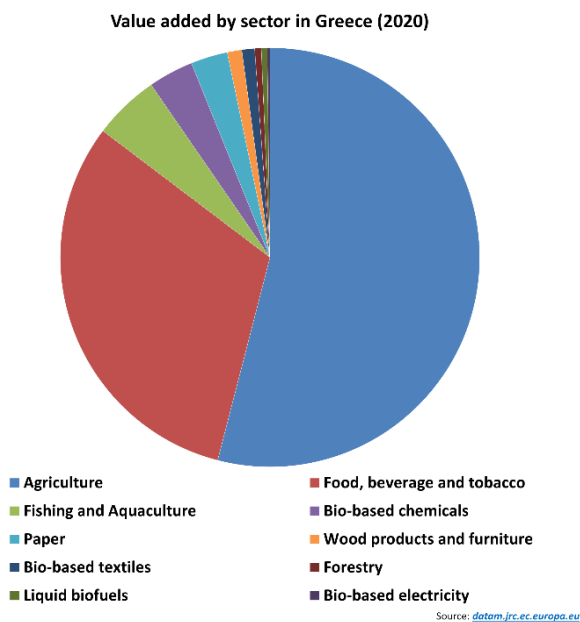


Figure 2: Value added by sector | Greece

Figure 1: Employment by sector | Greece

In recent years the bioenergy and biomaterials sector have experienced rapid growth, and these sectors are expected to grow rapidly as Greece transitions towards a low-carbon economic model. Key challenges for the development of a circular bioeconomy in Greece include changing demographics, infrastructure and long supply chains, access to funding for businesses, complex licensing procedures.

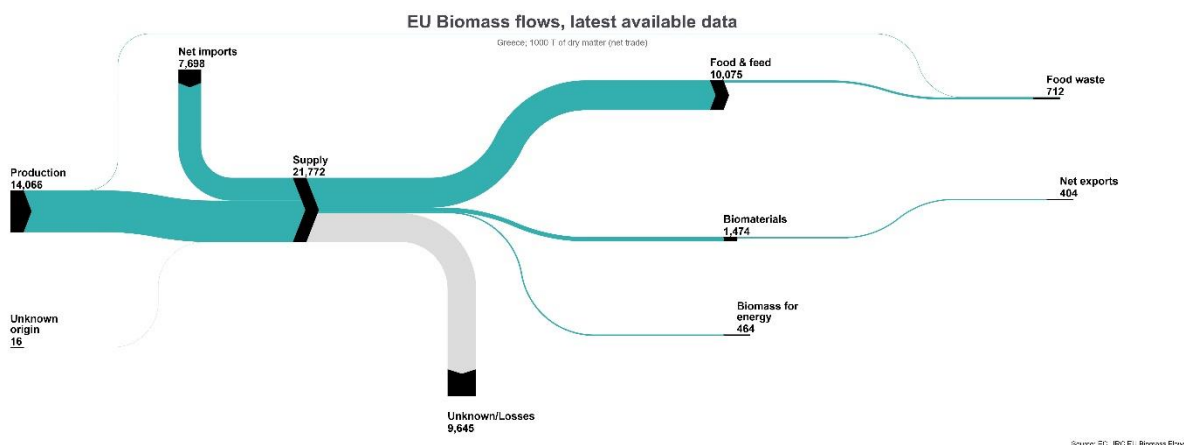


Figure 3: Biomass Flows | Greece



Several policies have been developed in recent years that are supportive of the bioeconomy and attempt to address some of the above-mentioned challenges, these include the Greek Smart Specialization Strategy, The Greek National Strategy on Circular Economy, The Greek National Energy and Climate Action Plan for 2030 and the 2050 Roadmap.

Improved knowledge on the status of the bioeconomy in Greece, its trajectory and associated innovations will help citizens, entrepreneurs and policy makers to transition to a circular bioeconomy. For more information please consult the [BioRural toolkit](#). There are a range of rural small scale success stories and biobased solutions already available in Greece, studying these and the lessons they provide can provide valuable practical lessons for entrepreneurs and policy makers and support the transformation of the Greek economy.



Figure 4: Greek Rural Area

Examples of these solutions include [Klimis](#) (a company producing bio-briquettes from olive kernels), [Staramaki](#) (a social enterprise producing drinking straws from natural wheat stems), [ESEK](#) (a local energy cooperative that produces its own pellets), [Kafsimo](#) (an innovative coffee waste collection system in Thessaloniki), [BlueCycle](#) (initiative that reuses plastic waste), [Liofyllo](#) (company that produces biobased materials from olive leaves).

