

Press release

Profitable and sustainable European forest management

NIBIO is leading the EU project TECH4EFFECT on knowledge and technologies for efficient wood procurement.

Ås, Norway, 13 December 2016 - To supply the bioeconomy with sufficient biomass, access to wood resources needs to be increased, growth rates accelerated and harvesting and silvicultural operations and business models improved. In the next four years, the European project TECH4EFFECT aims at increasing access to wood resources while reducing the environmental impact of forest harvesting. A web-based benchmarking tool collecting and systematizing forest operations data from across Europe will be developed to provide a solid foundation for knowledge-based forest management.

Supplying biomass to the bioeconomy

To meet the EU climate change targets and reduce Europe's dependency on fossil based products, the bioeconomy relies on ever-increasing amounts of biomass. The next breakthrough in efficiency gains in European forest management will come through knowledge-based management for better informed planning and decision making. Timber harvesting is the most cost intensive and fuel consuming part of forest management and results in the most severe impacts on forest ecosystem services. Relatively small improvements in forest harvesting can lead to potentially large gains in cost, work and fuel efficiency. TECH4EFFECT coordinator Rasmus Astrup concludes: "Technologies are not improving as fast as they used to. We need to focus now on knowledge based advances in efficiency, especially in harvesting."

Data-driven knowledge-based revolution of the European forest sector

TECH4EFFECT focuses on increasing access to wood resources through more efficient silviculture and a better understanding of the business models in the procurement of forest operation services. The project further considers increasing efficiency in forest harvesting and collection, and the reduction of soil impact from forest operations, making environmental considerations a measurable and integrated part of operational efficiency. TECH4EFFECT offers the potential to revolutionize forest operations with a state-of-the-art knowledge-based benchmarking tool. Based on the large amount of data available in modern industrial forest management this benchmarking tool will provide easily accessible decision support.

Consortium

Coordinated by NIBIO, nine research institutes and universities, three industrial partners and seven SMEs are participating in TECH4EFFECT. The consortium shows strong industrial participation and includes leading machine manufacturers and logistics experts, as well as large forest owners and associations of small owners and contractors. Academic institutions from all over Europe represent the main forest regions.

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Press release and images can be found at www.tech4effect.eu. For more information please visit our website or contact:

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Fact box:

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Partners: 19

Budget: € 5 million

Project duration: October 2016 – September 2020

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Project partners

Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO), Norway
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Italy
European Forest Institute (EFI), Finland
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Austria
Natural Resources Institute (LUKE), Finland
University of Copenhagen (UCPH), Denmark
RTDS Association, Austria
University of Freiburg (ALU-FR), Germany
Norskog, Norway
Kuratorium für Waldarbeit und Forsttechnik (KWF), Germany
Österreichische Bundesforste (ÖBF), Austria
Ibensoft, Denmark
Skovdyrkerne, Denmark
Ponsse Plc, Finland
Conaibo, Italy
Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), Poland
Latschbacher, Austria
Konrad Forsttechnik, Austria
Norwegian land and forest enterprise (Statskog), Norway

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