

# ACTORS IN FINLAND'S FOREST BIOECONOMY

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Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland

# INTRODUCTION

The bioeconomy accounts for a high share – over 12% – of value added of the Finnish national economy, with an annual output of over 70 billion euros and more than 300,000 employees.

In Finland's bioeconomy forests play a central role: Forests provide wood and non-wood materials, recreation, nature tourism and game. Carbon sequestration and ecosystem services are also included to the concept of forest bioeconomy.

Forest bioeconomy is advanced in cooperation between different sectors and industries. Wood raw materials contain ingredients that have only recently been detected and developed for novel uses e.g. in chemical and medical industry. Wood, wood fibres, biopolymers and molecules can replace synthetic, unsustainable or diminishing materials.

Actors in Finland's forest bioeconomy, which are presented in this presentation, participate actively in public statements, public outreach, lectures, conference proceedings, organisational position papers and scientific publications related to the forest bioeconomy. Here, only public sector organisations are included.



# EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS RELATED TO FOREST BIOECONOMY IN FINLAND



# MINISTRIES PROMOTING FOREST BIOECONOMY 1/2

In Finland, the promotion of the bioeconomy falls within the remit of several ministries.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry steers the policy on sustainable use of natural resources and research in the sector. In the field of forestry and use of forests, the ministry creates the preconditions for bioeconomy, business and enterprise and recreational use of nature. The aim of forest policy is that Finland manages renewable natural resources in a responsible and sustainable way and as an international pacemaker.

As part of the Government, the ministry implements the Government Programme, drafts legislation, monitors and develops issues falling within its remit and steers the agencies in its administrative branch. The ministry is responsible for preparing and implementing several natural resource strategies. In the forest sector, the most important strategy is the National Forest Strategy. The ministry participates closely in preparation of National Bioeconomy Strategies.



# MINISTRIES PROMOTING FOREST BIOECONOMY 2/2

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment is responsible for preparing e.g. matters concerning industrial policy, innovation and technology policy, international expansion of enterprises and technical safety, functionality of markets, energy policy and coordination of the preparation and implementation of the climate policy at national level, promotion of competition and consumer policy, employment and unemployment matters, work-environment issues, regional development and co-operation areas of the regional councils.

The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for preparing matters concerning communities, the built environment, housing, biodiversity, sustainable use of natural resources, climate change and environmental protection.

In addition to the above-mentioned ministries, several ministries promote the bioeconomy, e.g. the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Transport and Communications. More information on ministries: <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/ministries>

# FINNISH FOREST CENTRE

The Finnish Forest Centre is a state-funded organisation covering the whole country. It operates under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The Finnish Forest Centre's tasks are to promote forestry related livelihoods, enforce forestry legislation and look after data related to Finland's forests.

Moreover, the Forest Centre maintains the Metsään.fi eService, which offers the forest owners the latest information on their properties.



metsäkeskus

# METSÄHALLITUS

Metsähallitus is an unincorporated state enterprise, which uses, manages and protects state-owned land and water areas. There are 12.6 million hectares land and water areas, which are under Metsähallitus' stewardship. That corresponds to nearly a third of the country.

Metsähallitus operates in four business units. Business is conducted in subsidiaries Metsähallitus Forestry Ltd, MH-Kivi Oy, and Siemen Forelia Oy and in Metsähallitus Property Development, which is part of the Group.

Metsähallitus also has public administration services , which are handled by National Parks Finland and Wildlife Service Finland. Their focus is on nature conservation, hunting and fishing supervision and provision of recreational opportunities

# NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE FINLAND

The Natural Resource Institute Finland (Luke) is multidisciplinary R&D institute, which operates in the field of natural resources and sustainable food production. The Institute operates within the scope of activities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The purpose of Luke is to promote competitive economic activities, welfare based on the sustainable use of natural resources and the viability of rural areas.

Luke has both research activities and statutory official duties. On top of more than 500 ongoing R&D projects, Luke monitors natural resources, certifies plant production, inspects control agents, stores genetic resources, produces data on greenhouse gases, supports natural resource policies and produces Finland's official food and natural resource statistics.



# VTT TECHNICAL RESEARCH CENTRE OF FINLAND LTD

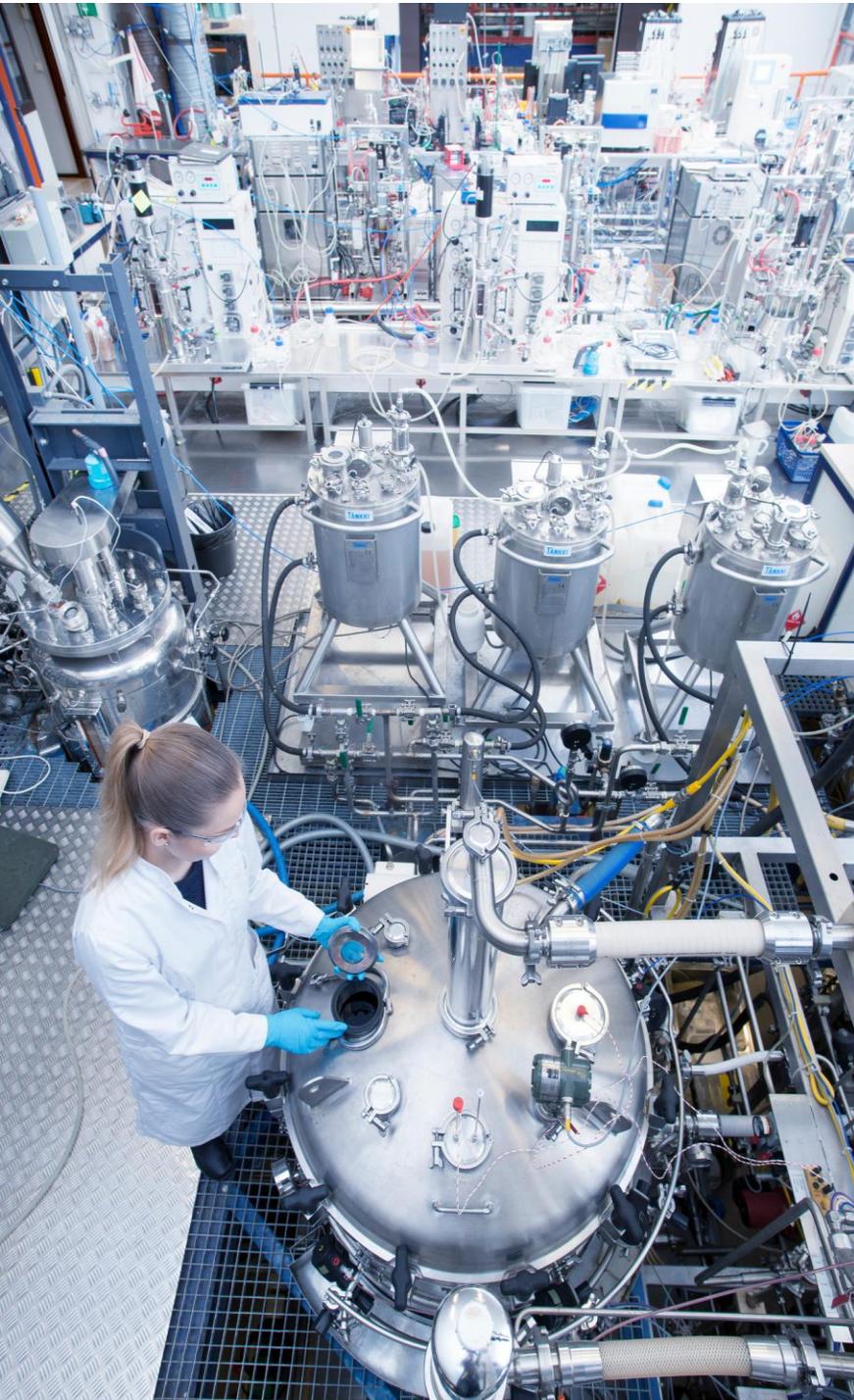
VTT is one of Europe's leading research institutions. VTT's task is to advance the utilization and commercialization of research and technology in commerce and society. VTT's research is guided by global challenges that are referred to as lighthouse themes: climate action, resource sufficiency, good life, safety and security and industrial renewal.

VTT researches and develops methods for creating novel, high-performing, sustainable materials as well as technologies, processes and business models to suit the transition from a linear economy to a circular one and beyond. For instance, VTT has researched and developed multiple ways of processing biomass into valuable intermediates, like fibrous and fibrillar particles, nanocellulose, dissolving pulps and lignin fractions. Furthermore, VTT has helped

clients create food and product packaging applications that are recyclable and made of biobased materials. VTT believes that in the 2030s, cellulose will be found in clothes, cars, household appliances, intelligent energy systems and, perhaps, even inside humans.

The VTT logo consists of the letters 'VTT' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid orange square.

**VTT**



# THE FINNISH INNOVATION FUND SITRA

Sitra is an independent public foundation, which operates directly under the supervision of the Finnish Parliament.

The purpose of the fund is to promote stable and balanced development of Finland by enhancing quantitative and qualitative economic growth, international competitiveness and co-operation. The fund particularly focuses on implementing projects with impacts that increase the efficiency of the use of economic resources, enhance the level of research and education, or explore future development options.

The logo for SITRA, featuring the word "SITRA" in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline, set against a black rectangular background.

# OTHER ACTORS

Business Finland is the Finnish government organization for innovation funding and trade, travel and investment promotion. Business Finland has 40 offices globally and 16 regional offices in Finland. Business Finland is part of the Team Finland network.

The Forest Management Association is an organisation of forest owners. The purpose of the associations is to promote the profitability of forestry practised by the forest owners and the realisation of other objectives they have set for forestry activities, as well as the economically, ecologically and socially sustainable use and management of forests. The tasks of association are to provide services related on forest ownership and forestry to its members.

Tapio is an advisory and consulting service provider owned by Finnish Government. Its services are related to forest management, forest resources inventory, forest management planning, forest and bioeconomy policies and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

# OTHER ACTORS 1/2

Finnish Meteorological Institute produces high-quality observation and research data on the atmosphere and the seas. It produces weather services and physical marine services. Moreover, it develops and maintains new measurement and modelling techniques for the provision of weather, marine, climate and space services as well as for scientific research.

The National Land Survey of Finland is a state authority, dealing with cartography and cadastre issues in Finland. It is guided by the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The National Land Survey of Finland safeguards the land ownership and credit system by maintaining information about properties and housing company shares in its registers and by taking care of the registration of ownership and mortgages. Other tasks of the agency include spatial data research and application. The NLS is the responsible party for collecting laser scanning data, which is utilised in collecting information about forest resources, and analysing and monitoring changes in the natural environment.



## OTHER ACTORS 2/2

Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) has the task of solving questions related to the environment and conducting long-term monitoring of the state of the environment and related trends. SYKE's open data includes versatile information on water resources, the Baltic Sea, environmental load and distractions, the valuable natural environment, land cover and the built environment.

Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY-centres)

Areas of responsibility related to the environment and natural resources: Reporting and monitoring the state of the environment, dealing with nature conservation, landscape protection, environment protection and use and management of water resources, and steering and monitoring of land use.

Geological Survey of Finland, GTK is an internationally oriented geoscience research agency.



# HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN FINLAND

Finland has two types of higher education institutions: universities and universities of applied sciences (UAS). English-taught degree programmes are offered on bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. Read more: <https://www.studyinfinland.fi/universities>

Finland has 13 universities and 22 universities of applied sciences. List of institutions: <https://www.studyinfinland.fi/universities-list-view>

Forest sciences are taught at universities of Helsinki and Eastern Finland

Tailor-made forest visits by University of Helsinki: [forestvisit.hyplusglobal.fi/](https://forestvisit.hyplusglobal.fi/)



# FOREST SCIENCES IN UNIVERSITIES

The School of Forest Sciences in the University of Eastern Finland offers one Bachelor of Science programme, five MSc programmes and DSc in Forest and Bioresources programme .

Research of the School of Forest Sciences focuses on forests, forestry and forests role in the society etc.

The department of Forest Sciences in the University of Helsinki offers one Bachelor of Science programme, two MSc programmes and several DSc programmes.

The Department of Forest Sciences research focuses on the interactions between climate change and forest, socio-economic changes and the global forest sector, new methods of managing forest information, the economic-ecological models of forest use and conservation.



UNIVERSITY OF  
EASTERN FINLAND



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

# STRATEGIES RELATED TO BIOECONOMY

[Government Programme 2019](#)

[National Forest Strategy 2025](#) (to be updated in the next years)

[The Finnish Bioeconomy Strategy](#)

[Strategic Programme to promote a Circular Economy](#)

[National Energy and Climate Strategy for 2030](#) (to be updated in 2022)

[Rural Development Programme for Mainland Finland](#)

[Forest Biodiversity Programme METSO](#) and [HELMI habitats programme](#)

[Wood Building Programme](#)

# MORE INFORMATION:

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry: <https://mmm.fi/en/frontpage>

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment: <https://tem.fi/en/frontpage>

Ministry of the Environment: <https://ym.fi/en/front-page>

Finnish Forest Centre: <https://www.metsakeskus.fi/en>

State Forests (Metsähallitus): <https://www.metsa.fi/en/>

Natural Resources Institute Finland: <https://www.luke.fi/en/>

Technical Research Center Finland: <https://www.vttresearch.com/en>

The Finnish Innovation Fund SITRA: <https://www.sitra.fi/en/>

Business Finland: <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/do-business-with-finland/home>

TAPIO: <https://tapio.fi/briefly-in-english/>

Finnish Forest Association: <https://smy.fi/en/>

**Bioeconomy contact directory** with big and small companies, consultancies, federations etc.: <https://www.bioeconomy.fi/ask-a-finn/>



MORE INFORMATION  
[www.mmm.fi/en/forests](http://www.mmm.fi/en/forests)



Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
FI-00023 GOVERNMENT, FINLAND  
Tel. +358 (0)295 16 001