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Representation of the Free State of Bavaria
to the European Union



6th Forest Innovation Workshop

Incredible NWFPs

Looking back to Incredible thematic Network 2018-2021

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Dates: 11-12 February 2025 | Location: Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union, Rue Wiertz 77, 1000 Brussels

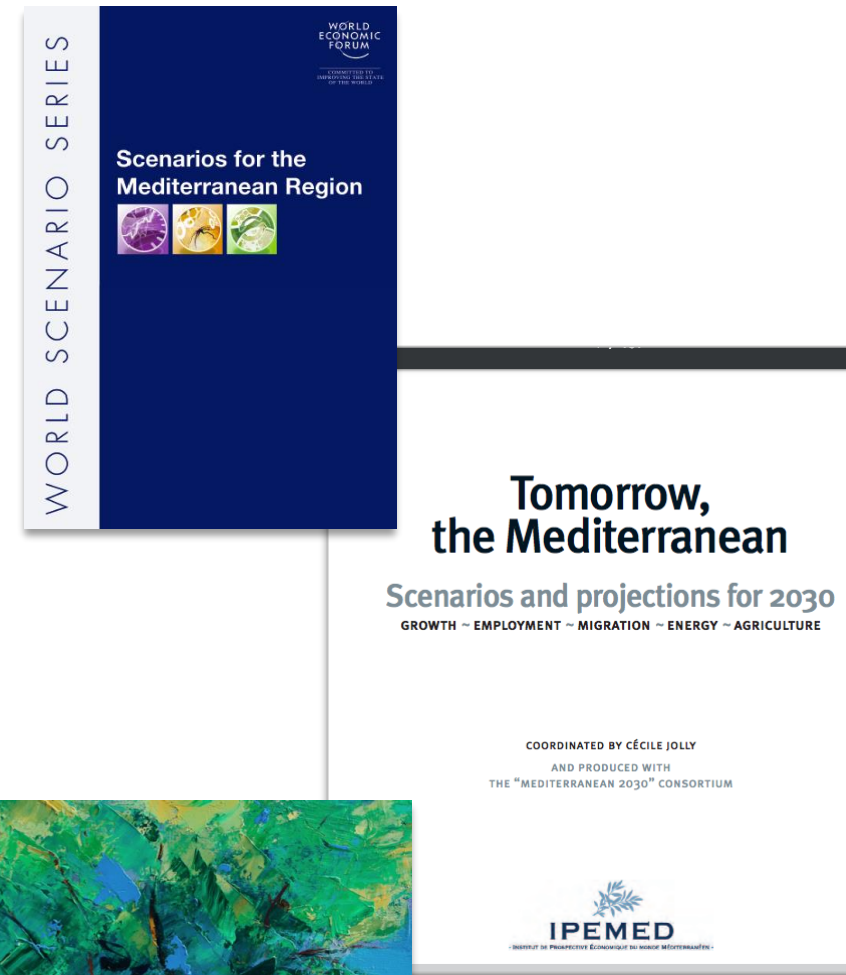


<http://www.forestinnovation.eu/>

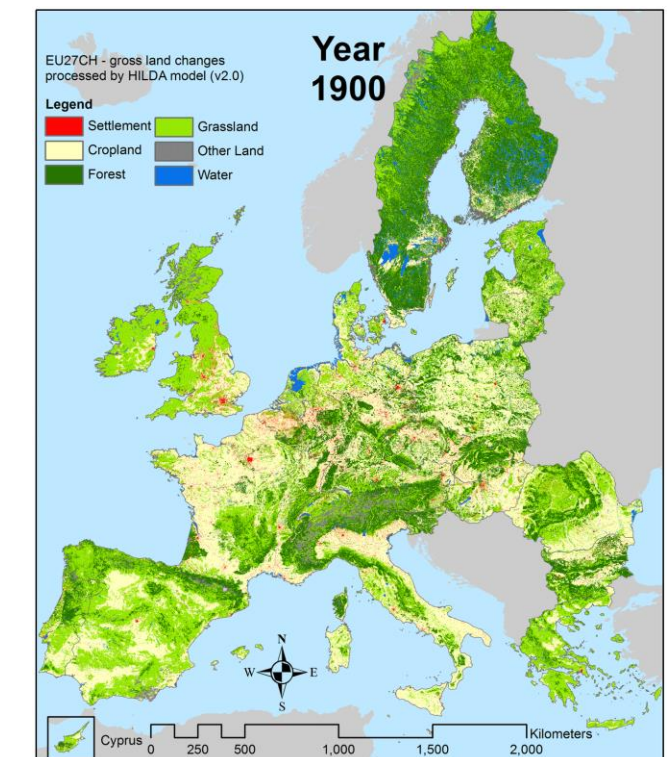
Why?

Key regional challenges

- Fragility of natural resources in a context of climate change
- Structural unemployment, specially in rural areas
- Asymmetric demography and deep political and economical divide



- Forests are a key green infrastructure
- Society is unable to capture its values
- NWFPs a hidden reality, with untapped potentials
- Pressing challenges
 - Climate change
 - Urbanisation
 - Globalisation
- Strong Drivers
 - Bioeconomy
 - Healthy lifestyles



R. Fuchs et al, Historic land changes in Europe, Biogeosciences, 10, 1543–1559, 2013

What is incredible?

INCREDIBLE was/is? a Thematic Network open to all those involved or interested in creating economic, social and environmental value through improved production, collection, processing, marketing of **Mediterranean Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs)**.



Other partners outside the Mediterranean region:
EFI, JOENSSU (FI)
ESSET, MEISE (BE)

Notes:
EFIMED is the European Forest Institute Mediterranean Regional Office.
CNPF displayed on the map including its HQ (Paris) and 5 regional offices.

Sources:
www.globalforestwatch.org
 Creative Commons: Peter Chlebak, Buena Buena, Marek Polakovic, Creative Stall, iconsphere for Noun Project

Multi-actor partnership
 Credible & legitimate
 Building upon existing networks:

- Star-Tree FP7 project
- COST ACTION FP 1203
- IUFRO Task Force
- FAO
- ...

the methodology in a nutshell

5 transnational multi-actor **Innovation Networks** (iNets) for iterative innovation.

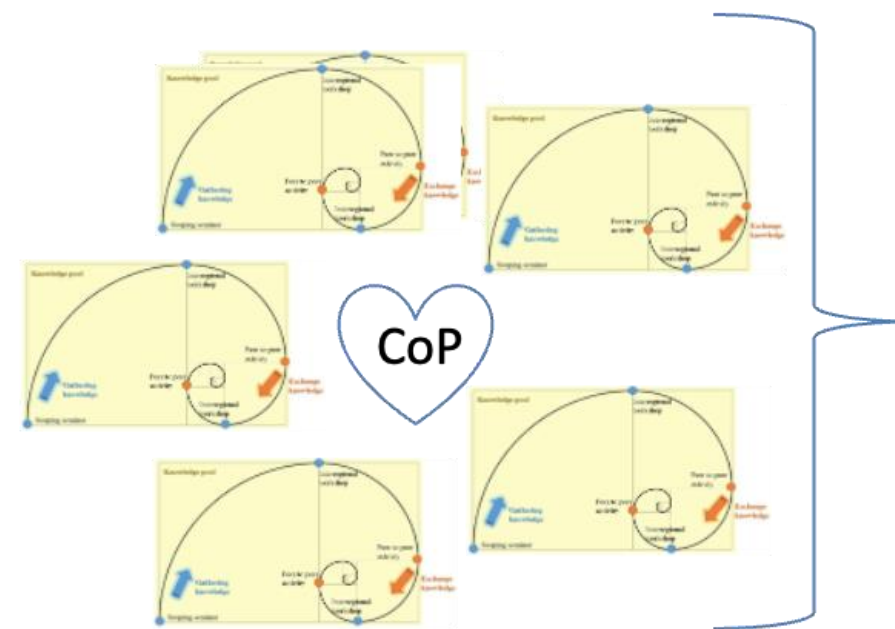
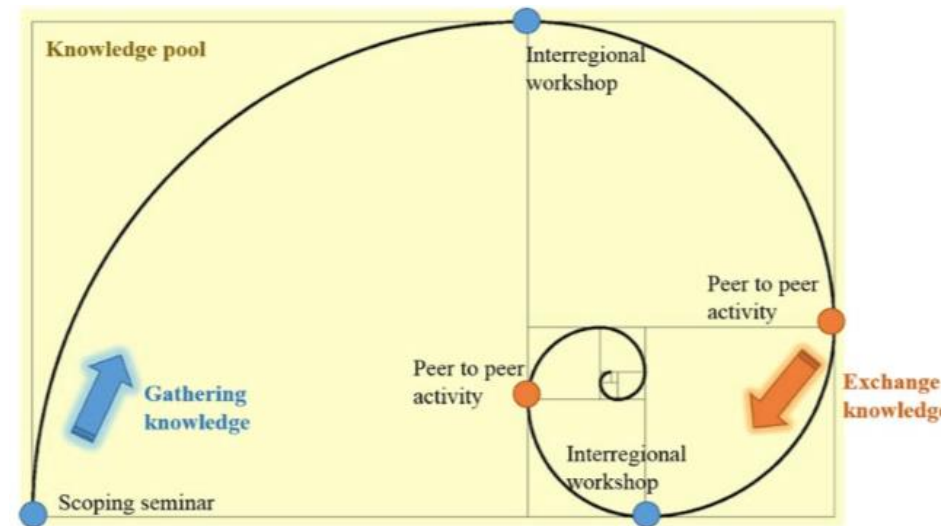
A **Community of Practice** for iNet animators, and **Cross-cutting** knowledge sharing in key areas

A **knowledge repository** with 250 factsheets

Open innovation challenges and *science into practice* contests to raise awareness and contribute to develop a culture of innovation

Condensation of Policy Implications in a **white paper & Policy Forum**

Supported by **communication, dissemination and exploitation** activities



Cross-cutting seminars

Open Innovation Challenges

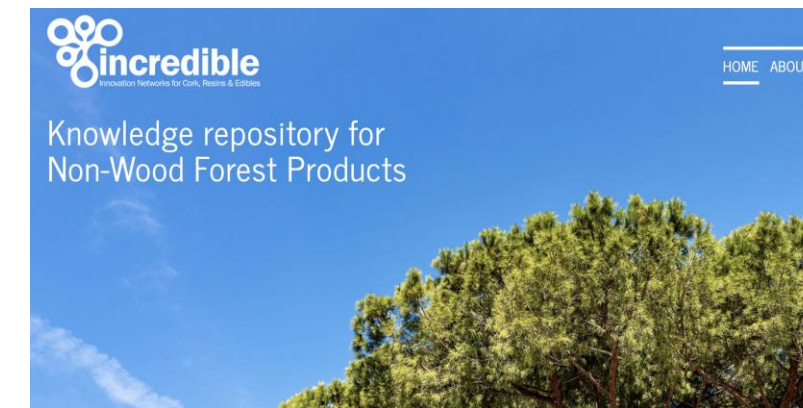
Repository of knowledge

Policy Forum

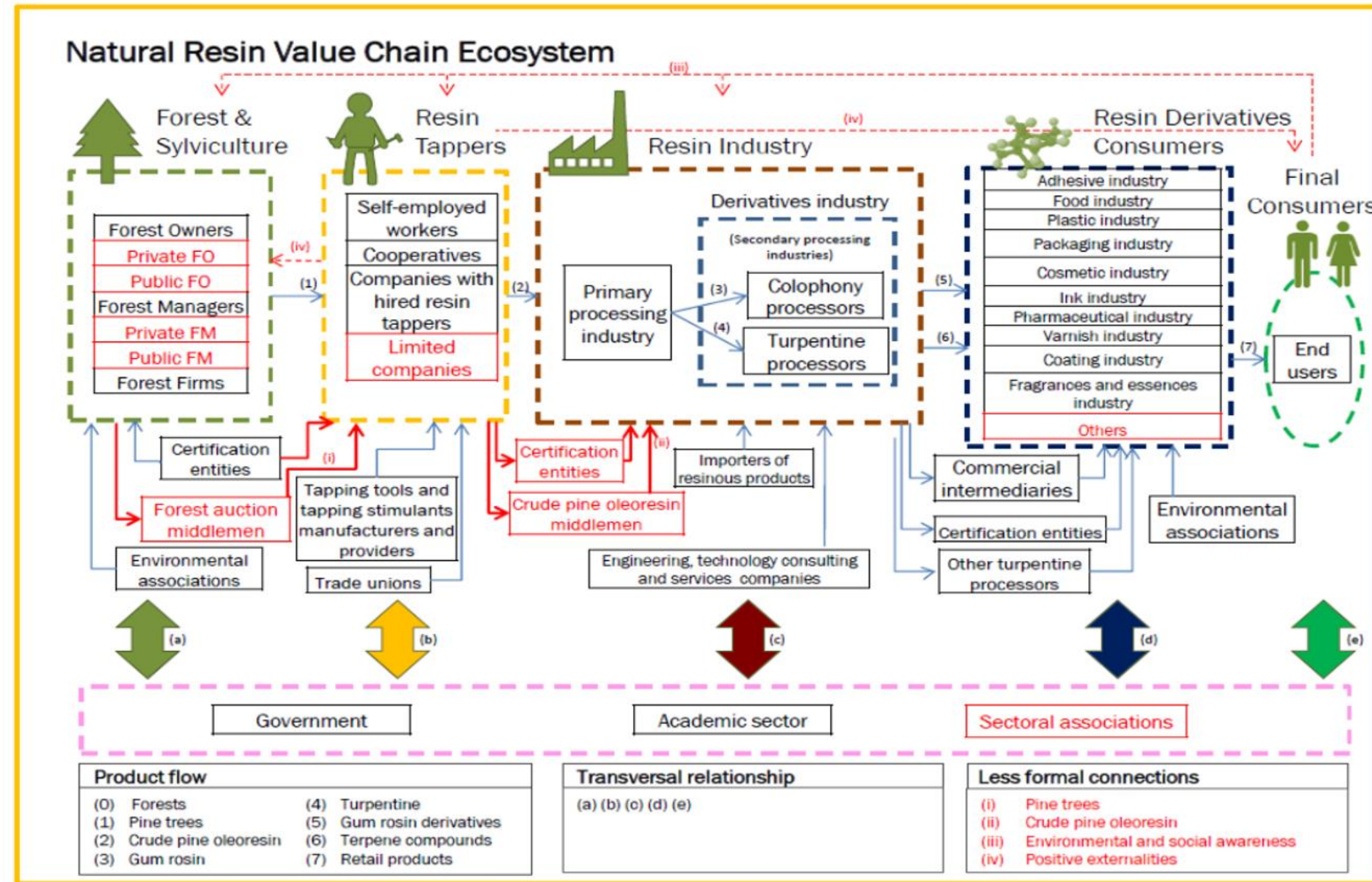
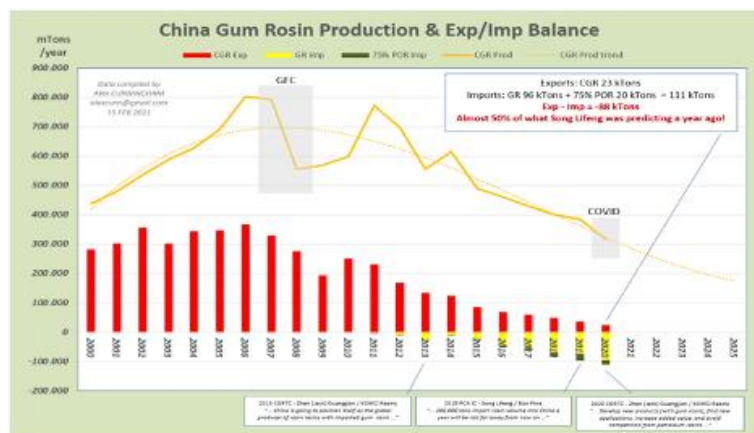


INCREDIBLE Project. Policy Forum: Untapping the potential of non-wood forest products for Europe's green economy

16 March, 2021 @ 8:00 am - 17 March, 2021 @ 5:00 pm



Participatory Value Chain analysis & ecosystem maps



A flavour of incredible

Science to practice day on genetics

The cork scoping seminar

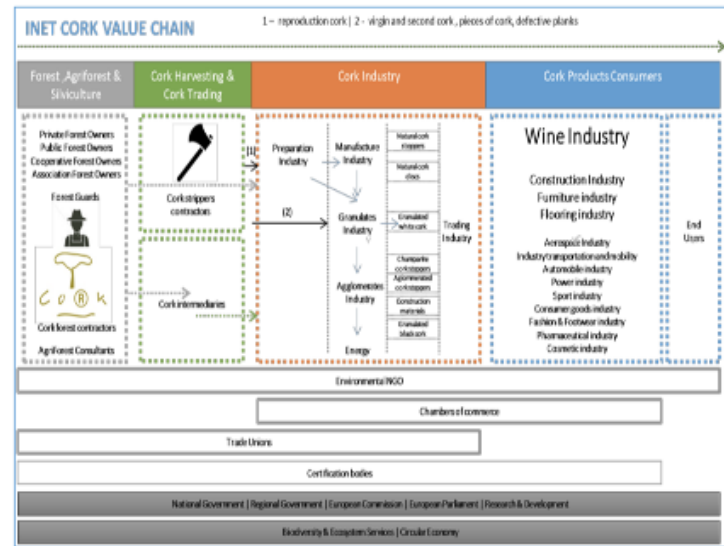


Figure 1: iNet Cork value chain discussed during the seminar



Science to Practice event

News Date: Vendredi, 21 septembre, 2018

Secure supply

Empower producers

Unificación of currently dispersed trials

Interregional workshop exploring a Pan-Mediterranean quality assessment method



Peer to Peer Knowledge transfer



Understand the relevance

Cultural Heritage Health and wellbeing

- 90% of European households consume NWFP,
- 26% collect some type of NWFP
- 60 million Foragers
- unique culinary traditions
- more active personal lifestyles.

Sustain Livelihoods and social Integration

- €4 billion yr-1, marketed in Europe
- 20% the value of marketed roundwood
- > 10% of the income for 4.5 million households, mainly rural.
- Income at the base of bioeconomy value chains

Sustainable land management & high biodiversity ecosystems

- >5 million hectares (Mha) of forests, primarily managed for NWFPs
- 9330 "Quercus suber forests"
- 9340 "Q. ilex and Q. rotundifolia"
- 6310 "Dehesas with Quercus spp."
- 9540 "Mediterranean pine forests with endemic Mesogean pines"

Green economy

- EUR 76 billion globally annually marketed
- EUR 1.2 billion cork export in Portugal
- EUR 80 Billion is EU market on cosmetics and personal care
- EUR 2.5 Billion wildly collected plant impots in EU
- EU represents close to 50% of global trade, is net imported (EUR 4 billion yr.)



Uncover key challenges

Sustainability and social justice in jeopardy

- Uncontrolled harvesting
- Grey and back economies
- Unfair trade
- Undeclared work

Too Many *unknowns*

- *Who?*
- *How?*
- *How much?*
- *For what?*
- *From where?*

At the Boundary of policy areas

- Plant, animal, different parts
- Wild, semi wild, farmed
- Diverging value chains (Food, feed, materials, services)

Increasing Supply Gap

- Large positive drivers
- Shrinking production capacity

Connect people and identify shared ways forwards

A call for action to multiple stakeholders

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL POLICY ACTIONS PROPOSED TO LEVERAGE NWFP

SUPPLY SECURE THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY OF NWFP

3.1.1 Enhance the resource base



- Focus on active forest management of existing forests
- Embrace multi-functional forest management to enhance NWFP production
- Recognise the strategic importance of agroforestry habitats
- Support long-term investments into forests through appropriate instruments
- Explore the role of domestication, to secure supply of most demanded NWFP

3.1.2 Ensure sustainable harvest levels and fair access to the resource



- Guarantee fair, predictable and transparent access to forest resources
- Regulate and respect harvest rights for NWFP
- Establish adequate and realistic responsibilities and control procedures
- Train workers and collectors of NWFP adequately
- Build capacities on NWFP into renewed forest and agricultural advisory services

3.1.3 Set up and improve monitoring systems and inventories



- Embed NWFP resource assessment in National Forest Inventories
- Support resource assessment of NWFP at European, national and sub-national scales
- Establish innovative procedures to record information on collection and trade
- Invest in research and development of NWFP assessment and monitoring

INFORM PROVIDE TRANSPARENCY, DATA AND INFORMATION FLOW ON NWFP

3.3.1 Improve visibility of NWFP



- Establish databases with priority, high relevance NWFP
- Improve NWFP reporting or accounting in International Statistical Classifications Systems
- Integrate NWFP in individual/household consumption surveys
- Complement information by targeted sectoral and market surveys

3.3.2 Ensure traceability and encourage innovative labelling



- Enforce compliance of edible NWFP with food traceability and labelling requirements
- Establish legal standards and due diligence systems
- Encourage voluntary certification and quality standards
- Inform and educate consumers through guarantee of origin
- Leverage the potential of mobile ICT solutions for labelling and traceability

3.3.3 Facilitate access to data and market information



- Promote studies of costs, rents, trade, and prices for NWFP production systems
- Promote knowledge sharing through good practice guidelines and ICT platforms

VALUE BUILD COMPETITIVE AND EQUITABLE VALUE CHAINS

3.2.1 Develop innovative and territorial value chains



- Favour co-management of public forests
- Support territorial value chains and local networks
- Realise synergies with tourism in territorial development strategies
- Promote new business models and downstream integration
- Support certification for quality, origin and sustainability
- Incorporate systems of Payments for Environmental Services

3.2.2. Design and adopt innovative fiscal and labour regimes



- Define clear boundaries on who the producers are
- Adopt innovative fiscal regimes
- Adopt adequate labour policies to tackle seasonality and undeclared work
- Contractualise the relationships between landowners and collectors

3.2.3 Strengthen equitability and the role of producer organisations



- Increase transparency of price setting
- Support price observatories, linked to product quality standards
- Stimulate, strengthen and involve producer organisations and cooperatives

ENABLE CREATE ENABLING CONDITIONS

3.4.1 Increase policy coherence across all relevant policy domains



- Work towards a consistent approach to nature and landscape conservation
- Comprehensively reveal the social and ecological dimensions of NWFP
- Support compliance with food and chemical safety regulations
- Establish a level playing field that implements sustainable and circular economy approaches
- Adapt the Common Agricultural Policy to better support NWFP conservation and development
- Develop coherent programmes for key NWFP sectors at different scales

3.4.2 Improve financial support



- Define eligibility for NWFP and agroforestry land in the CAP direct payments
- Promote integrated approaches related to rural development programmes
- Adjust rural development funds and direct payments
- Better support NWFP within existing programmes and available funding sources

3.4.3 Foster innovation, knowledge transfer and extension capacity



- Build a systemic approach to promote innovation
- Increase research attention to the social-ecological dimensions of NWFP
- Develop capacities in rural development agencies Strengthen forest advisory services
- Increase the attention given to NWFP in vocational training schools