

Portugal	Luís Filipe Calaim
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<i>Institution</i>	FENAFORESTA/CONFAGRI
<i>Position</i>	General Secretary FENAFORESTA. Adviser of Forest Cooperatives - National Federation, political representation of forest cooperatives in Brussels. Forest Management Certification Group - FSC, Confagri projects. Representative Copa Cogeca
<i>Field of work</i>	Manager group CEFC. Rural development and finance tools and projects management. Background in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forest certification• Finance tools• Policies and regional perspective of biomass utilization

Experience

<i>About the feedstock, processing & conversion</i>	<p>In Portugal there is a law that obligates by law to clean near the roads and houses (50m width belt around).</p> <p>So the process will involve to firstly implement and submit a project to clean the biomass in this area (50m) and the project will be founded 100% by the Rural Development Programme (Decree Law 17/2009).</p> <p>The biomass obtained is woody, herbaceous and residues which are usually sold, for example to little factories that burn it in small boilers. Sometimes they have machines to chip the material in site and the chips are sold. Sometime the biomass is just left in the site (the frequency of this case is around 30%).</p>
<i>Policies, finance tools and legal regulations</i>	<p>Decree Law 17/2009 establishes the zone that need to be cleaned around houses and roads. In first instance the biomass obtained belongs to the owner, after they cut it belongs to the company that performs the cutting.</p> <p>There are no regulations currently otherwise that affect LCMW biomass.</p>
<i>Difficulties & barriers</i>	<p>The legal procedure to carry out the maintenance work requires to inform the National authority of Conservation and Forest Institute specifying when, where and to whom the biomass will be sold, additionally it needs to identify to whom does the resource belongs. And once the corresponding authority has been informed regarding all this issues they will give a permit to harvest, otherwise you get a fee. This maintenance works are 100% funded by the Rural Development Program and if you do not get the fund from them the municipal administration is obliged to carry out the work.</p>
<i>Potential drivers & recommendations</i>	
<i>Public support & good governance</i>	

Regarding the subsidies, there are different possibilities. The “Forest Permanent Fund” and the funds through the Rural Development Program. Companies can apply to it if they are categorized as small and medium.

Additionally there are 2 certification schemes (FSC and PEFC) in place in Portugal. Factories are very interesting and are implementing these schemes. There are also traceability regulation (a manifesto) that they need to followed.

Not all companies or bodies can apply to the financing tools but in general from his point of view there here are no special legal barriers.

The main difficulty is that there are no factories that will use this type of feedstock, so there is a lack of end user, the factories mainly user electricity or gas in their production process.

Public acceptance regarding harvesting, processing & conversion

The information regarding the works that will be carried out need to be published in the national newsletter and printed and hanged in the windows of the municipality (main entrance) specifying the days in which the works will be carried out, the location, etc.

Good practices of cooperation & participation

Public and private partnerships have several good practices implemented. For example, in Portugal there are prevention brigades which are different from the extinction brigades. These prevention brigades are paid half by the state and half by the private sector, and they cut and sell the biomass they collect during the performance of their work. Another example will be the community lands which in some cases have a program to produce biomass so that the work is financed by itself (some examples are Baldios de Vila Nova, Baldios da ex-Freguesia de Vilarinho e Baldios da Lousã).

Good governance mechanisms

There are also programs to promote and Support local businesses.

Wider insight

The share of LCMW biomass could be increased if for example small and medium companies were obliged to produce a percentage of the energy they consume. This could be the case for example for municipal swimming pool or for public buildings if they were obliged to use biomass for heating it would make an important change.

The procedure could be ameliorated if the information was sent or shared via email. The procedures currently in place could be simplified.

Contact information

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