

National Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023-2025

InterTradelreland's submission to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Bioeconomy Implementation Group
27 January 2023

Introduction

InterTradelreland welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of a National Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023-2025 and to highlight our ongoing work in this area from an all island trade and business development perspective. The bioeconomy is a key strategic sector for our all island cluster-led [Synergy Programme](#). Synergy aims to scale cross-border collaboration, using cluster and network development supports to increase the impact of programmes with economic benefit to Ireland and Northern Ireland. The programme previously supported a project to develop an All Island [BioMap](#) in partnership with the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation. In addition to our Synergy Programme, ITI supports such as [Innovation Boost](#), [Elevate](#), [Funding Advisory Service](#) and [Seedcorn competition](#) could be utilised to help support the bioeconomy on an all island basis. Through this submission we will highlight our work in supporting the development of the bioeconomy on the island of Ireland to the benefit of developing the National Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023-2025.

Considerations

- **The All Island BioMap**, supported by InterTradelreland's Synergy Programme and in partnership with the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation (IBF), illustrates the all island bioeconomy value chain of 48 companies, with a 50:50 ratio based in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The BioMap documents a database across the island of agri-food, marine, dairy, forestry, and functional food ingredient stakeholders for market and business intelligence. The project also identified organisations for cross-border partnerships and facilitated meetings between these companies, leading to collaboration on developing innovative bio-based products that are globally competitive.
- **BioInvestIreland (Belfast)** is a Synergy funded project with the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation to help biobased/bioeconomy innovators (startups, scaleups), based in both Northern Ireland and Ireland to gain access and exposure to investment capital from relevant strategic and financial investors interested in enlarging their ESG-base. BioInvestIreland is an opportunity to host a one-day pitching event in Belfast focused on helping biobased SMEs located on the island of Ireland to secure private finance. The "BioInvestIreland (Belfast)" project focuses on building skills of participants on information relevant for finance/investment such as building/presenting on value proposition, past and future milestones and other general information.



- **Irish Nutrient Sustainability Platform (INSP)** is a cross-border, stakeholder-led, cluster initiative to promote nutrient (carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus) sustainability across the island. The Platform is founded on the principle that waste is a valuable resource of nutrients, energy and other high-value products. As such, the Platform's mission is to catalyse the development of circular bioeconomy-based business models amongst its stakeholder members which focus on the valorisation and re-use of organic waste streams. Through the Platform and via our Synergy Programme, InterTradelreland has been working with SMEs on a project to overcome the challenge of bringing products to markets and validation and proof of concept of innovative products. The project will support an industry – industry – academia cross border voucher scheme to facilitate the development of circular bioeconomy based projects, enabling businesses to develop new bioeconomy based value streams. Obtaining early stage validation of recovered nutrient products is a barrier for smaller companies wanting to bring these products to market. This pathway enables these companies to test their products at an early stage, enabling commercialisation and creating new revenue streams. The knowledge sharing element to the project also enable companies to learn from each other, accelerating their own product development and commercialisation.
- **All island Bioeconomy Summit 2022:** InterTradelreland supported the annual bioeconomy summit in Tullamore in October 2022. InterTradelreland support was used to ensure that the summit was an all island event with speakers and attendees from Ireland and Northern Ireland and topics covered being issues that concerned participants from Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Conclusion

The bioeconomy is a key strategic sector for InterTradelreland's work on developing all island clusters and through our work we can see the opportunities for further all island collaboration to the benefit of Ireland and Northern Ireland's common efforts to develop the bioeconomy. We urge the Departments to consider the merits of an all island approach to any future National Bioeconomy Action Plan and to take account of work already underway in this space. InterTradelreland look forward to continuing to collaborate with and support the Departments in the development of the National Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023-25.

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