

Latvia`s society attitude towards bioeconomy

Workshop:
Contribution to Bioeconomy Strategy Development in Latvia

Ingrida Bremere
Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia
25.08.2016.

Linking biomass and climate change mitigation

- Biomass – a major resource used for climate change mitigation
- Bioeconomy development offers new opportunities for various uses of biomass (innovative products, application range)
- Society in Latvia rather sceptical on efforts towards climate change mitigation for coming years
 - 46% in LV and 54% on average EU agree that research and technological innovations will provide a positive result by 2030
 - 28% in LV and 39% on average EU agree that human behaviour will provide a positive result by 2030

Source: Special EuroBarometer 419, 2014

Screening of attitude of society

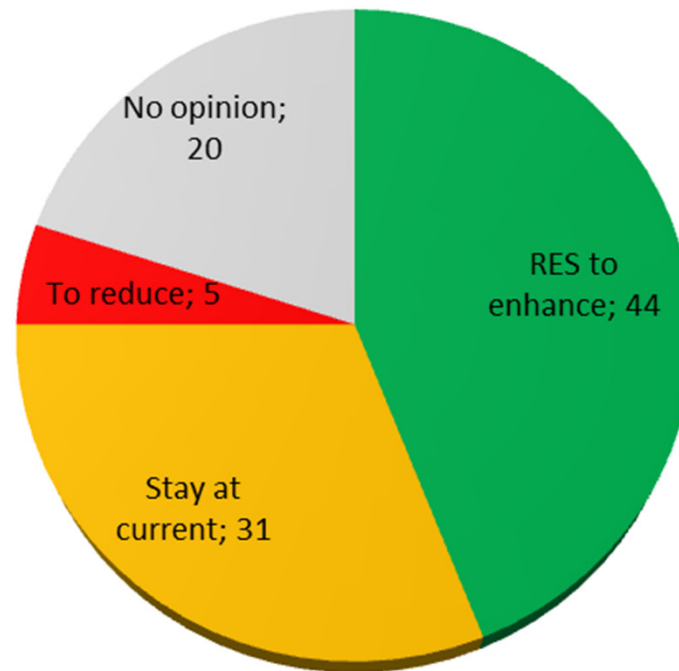


for linking climate change mitigation measures
& a biomass use

A tool: survey on society`s attitude

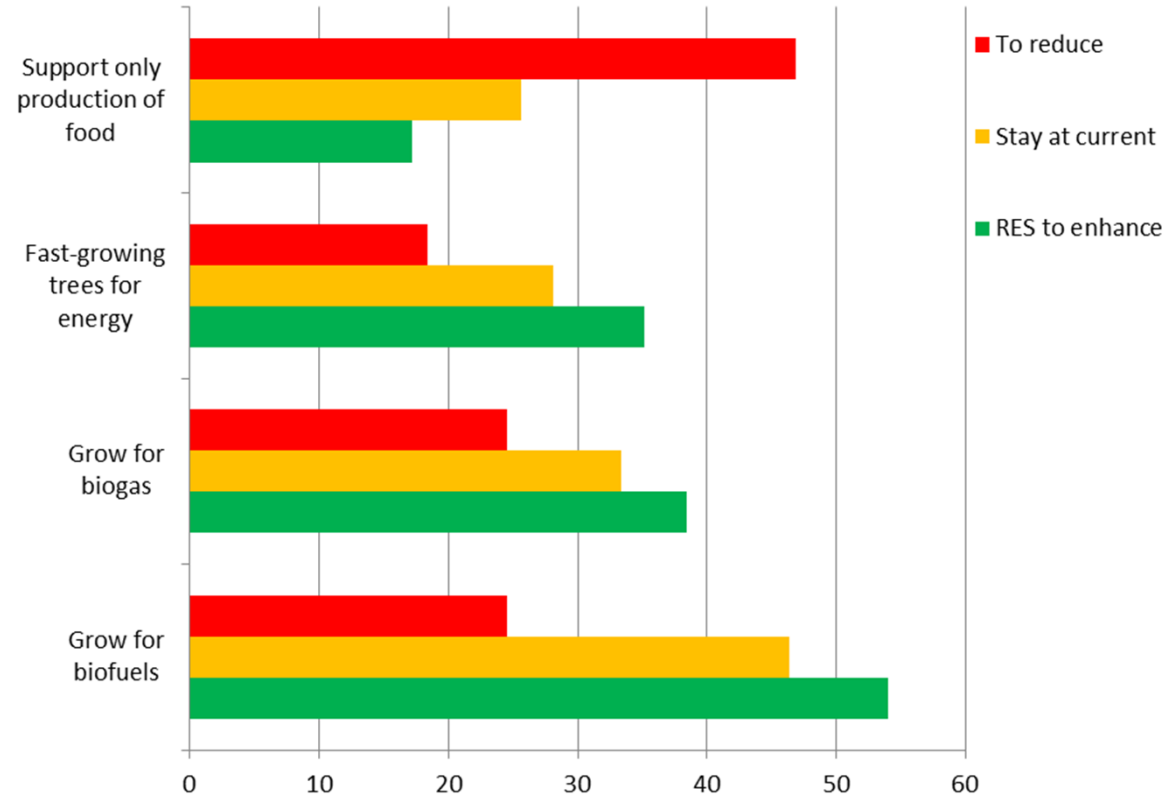
- A representative survey by stratified random selection
- Number of respondents: n = 1005
- Socio-demographic profile correlates closely with statistics on inhabitants in the country
- Distinction by a locality:
 - Riga: City of Riga
 - Other city: Daugavpils, Liepaja, Jelgava, Jurmala, Ventspils, Rezekne, Valmiera, Jekabpils and other towns
 - Rural: rural territories
- Direct interviews in May, 2016
- Implementer: Marketing and Public Opinion Research Centre (SKDS)

Attitude towards RES: What shall be the RES use volume in Latvia?



- 75% of respondents support renewable energy resources!
- However, rather high share of those with no opinion – 20%

Attitude towards RES: Which of the agricultural land-use you support?



- Respondents in favour of enhancing of RES support use of agricultural land for growing of energy cultures

On biomass: What use options to promote in Latvia?

	Bioeconomy measure sector	Support (%) n=1005, multiple choices
To promote production of heat energy	Energy	35
To promote co-generation	Energy	35
To promote biogas production	Energy Transport	29
To promote biofuels production	Transport	42
To promote added-value products	Economy	23
To promote wood export (e.g., chips, pellets, stem-wood)	Related measure	23
Use of biomass shall not be promoted	N/A	5
No opinion/ difficulties to answer	N/A	14

Comparison of bioeconomy measures

- Support from respondents to each biomass use is expressed in %
- Options are compared with responses distinguished:
 - By locality
 - By attitude to RES volume
 - By main reason for biomass energy use

Support to production of **heat energy**

By locality	Riga n=331	Other city n=350	Rural n=324
	32	36	37
By attitude to RES use volume	To enhance n=435	Stay at current n=317	To reduce n=49
	41	30	29
By main reason for biomass energy use	Cheaper resource n=332	Local employment n=183	Renewable n=114
	45	32	34

Support to promotion of **co-generation**

By locality	Riga n=331	Other city n=350	Rural n=324
	34	38	32
By attitude to RES use volume	To enhance n=435	Stay at current n=317	To reduce n=49
	21	17	14
By main reason for biomass energy use	Cheaper resource n=332	Local employment n=183	Renewable n=114
	39	45	40

Support to promotion of **biogas** production

By locality	Riga n=331	Other city n=350	Rural n=324
	29	26	32
By attitude to RES use volume	To enhance n=435	Stay at current n=317	To reduce n=49
	35	27	22
By main reason for biomass energy use	Cheaper resource n=332	Local employment n=183	Renewable n=114
	32	33	25

Support to promotion of **biofuel** production

By locality	Riga n=331	Other city n=350	Rural n=324
	44	39	45
By attitude to RES use volume	To enhance n=435	Stay at current n=317	To reduce n=49
	45	44	43
By main reason for biomass energy use	Cheaper resource n=332	Local employment n=183	Renewable n=114
	50	49	48

Surprisingly high support from respondents!

Support to promotion of **added-value** products

By locality	Riga n=331	Other city n=350	Rural n=324
	23	20	27
By attitude to RES use volume	To enhance n=435	Stay at current n=317	To reduce n=49
	22	26	37
By main reason for biomass energy use	Cheaper resource n=332	Local employment n=183	Renewable n=114
	25	25	27

Higher support from respondents to reduce RES volume!

Support to promotion of wood export

By locality	Riga n=331	Other city n=350	Rural n=324
	19	21	28
By attitude to RES use volume	To enhance n=435	Stay at current n=317	To reduce n=49
	24	23	20
By main reason for biomass energy use	Cheaper resource n=332	Local employment n=183	Renewable n=114
	24	32	36

Higher support from respondents in smaller cities and rural area and those considering biomass as renewable source and promoting local employment

Findings

- Attitude of society towards promotion of RES is positive! However, concern may cause attitude to future land-use trends, therefore it is crucial to find a policy balance, including development of bioeconomy strategy
- Support to bioeconomy measures seems to be higher from respondents in rural areas. It can be explained by close availability of resource and diverse options for biomass use there.
- High support is seen for wood export at rural areas: main reasons are to promote local employment and seeing renewable nature of the biomass

Thank you for attention!



Projekts “Komplekss izvērtējums par sociāli-ekonomiski pamatotiem SEG emisiju samazināšanas risinājumiem klimata politikas ieviešanai” Nr. 1-08/339/2015 saņēmis atbalstu no Latvijas vides aizsardzības fonda



Latvijas
vides
aizsardzības
fonds