



# BIOBASEDCERT

## BIOBASEDCERT FINAL CONFERENCE

<b>Title</b>	<b>How can voluntary certification systems support the transition to a sustainable circular bioeconomy</b>
<b>Date and location</b>	May 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 - 21 Rue Du Champ De Mars, 1050 Ixelles, Brussels
<b>Participants</b>	Policymakers, Advisory Board members, schemes and label owners, industry actors, NGOs, academia, EU projects related to bio-based systems
<b>Organizers</b>	STAR4BBS, SUSTCERT4BIOBASED, HARMONITOR
<b>Related projects</b>	BIORECER; 3-CO; SUSTRACK; ALIGNED; CALIMERO; ViSS; REBIOLUTION; BIOTRANSFORM; SYMBIO: SYMBA; ESCIB; LCA4BIO; ACTPAC; ARGONAUT; BIORADAR.
<b>Approach</b>	<p>The event will share key results from the BIOBASEDCERT cluster, linking them to the broader European bioeconomy policy framework. The day will feature: i) Interactive thematic sessions, including presentations by the cluster, panel discussions and co-creation activities involving key stakeholders; ii) Integrative sessions to reflect on and synthesize the insights gained during the day.</p> <p>Discussions will cover the BIOBASEDCERT Monitoring Tool (BMT), assessment of certification schemes and labels, trade flow analysis, and cost-benefit evaluations. The main focus will be on exploring how voluntary sustainability certification systems can function as effective policy tools for a sustainable circular bioeconomy. Key takeaways and policy recommendations will be documented, with the day concluding in an integrative session to synthesize findings. A highlight of the event will be a European Commission DG RTD.B1-led workshop on: "Bio-based products in the frame of the Ecodesign for sustainable products Regulation and the Consumer empowerment Directive".</p> <p>Throughout the event, insights on how voluntary sustainability certification systems can serve as effective policy tools for a sustainable circular bioeconomy will be explored. Key takeaways and policy recommendations will be documented, with the day concluding in an integrative session to synthesize findings.</p>
<b>Morning session: 09:00-12:30</b>	
<b>9:00- 9:15 Opening</b>	<p>Opening Agenda and Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luana Ladu (TU Berlin)</li> </ul> <p>Welcome and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit Green Transitions, DG Research &amp; Innovation at European Commission - Astrid Ladefoged</li> <li>• Stefania Rocca (Project Officer, European Research Executive Agency, REA)</li> </ul>
<b>9:15 – 11:00 Session I "Exploring the applicability of the BIOBASEDCERT Monitoring Tool (BMT) as a co-</b>	<p>This session will provide a short overview of the BMT, including its structure, core functionalities, and key findings from its two-phase testing process. The discussion will focus on the potential of the BMT to support EU policy objectives, particularly in fostering the uptake of sustainable bio-based materials. Special attention will be given to the tool's use as a voluntary or co-regulatory instrument within current or forthcoming EU legislative frameworks on bio-based products. The panel will explore the BMT's relevance to sustainability certification schemes and labels (CSLs), its potential alignment with regulatory instruments (such as</p>

<p><b>regulation instrument”</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Iris Vural Gursel (Wageningen Research)</b></li> </ul>	<p>REDIII), and its long-term integration in the broader EU sustainability governance landscape.</p>
	<p><b>9:15 – 10:00</b></p> <p>BIOBASEDCERT Monitoring Tool - BMT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMT: Introduction and applicability (Luana Ladu, TUB)</li> <li>• System Level (Nikola Matović, TUB)</li> <li>• Content Level (Heleen Ballemans, WR)</li> <li>• Outcome Level (Maulidia Khairani, UU)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>10:00 – 10:10</b></p> <p>Q&amp;A from all participants</p>
	<p><b>10:10 – 10:40</b></p> <p>Panel discussion with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jiannis Kougoulis (DG GROW)</li> <li>• Blanca de Ulibarri (RSB)</li> <li>• Audrun Utskarpen (Nordic Swan)</li> <li>• Martin Junginger (3-CO + BIOBASEDCERT Cluster)</li> <li>• Rodrigo Rupérez (UNCTAD)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>10:40 – 10:45</b></p> <p>Summary – recommendations</p>
<p><b>10:45– 11:00</b></p>	<p><i>Coffee break</i></p>
<p><b>11:00- 12:30</b></p> <p><b>Workshop: “Bio-based products and certification in the frame of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) and the Consumer Empowerment Directive”</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Silvia Maltagliati (DG RTD at European Commission)</b></li> </ul>	<p>The policy framework that designs and steers the pathway of the EU industry towards the green transition includes the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation and the Consumer empowerment Directive. This workshop will explore the progress the bio-based industrial value chains along such pathway, bringing together experts from the projects’ consortia. Panellists will examine how the Empowering Consumers Directive and the ESPR influence bio-based products (in scope of the legislation), particularly in areas such as sustainability claims, certification schemes, and labelling—including the introduction of digital product passports. Additionally, discussions will focus on the necessary developments, including research and innovation efforts, to align both traditional bio-based products—such as textiles, wood-based and bio-based construction materials, paper packaging, detergents, and lubricants—and innovative bio-based solutions with the requirements set by these regulations.</p> <p>Panel discussion with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lara Dammer (nova-Institut)</li> <li>• Luca Boniolo (ECOS)</li> <li>• Maira Devisscher (ISEAL)</li> <li>• René Bethmann (VAUDE)</li> <li>• Ivana Krkljus (BASF)</li> <li>• Floris Akkerman (BAM)</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:30 – 13:30</b></p>	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
<p><b>Afternoon session: 13:30 – 17:30</b></p>	
<p><b>13:30 - 14:30</b></p> <p><b>Session II: “Impact of certification on global bio-based value chains”</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lara Dammer (nova-Institut)</b></li> </ul>	<p>This session will explore the critical role of certification schemes in shaping global bio-based value chains, highlighting their influence on sustainability, market access, and regulatory compliance. Key insights from sister projects will be presented, showcasing the main results achieved and the lessons learned. The session will also address the challenges, barriers, and opportunities faced by certification schemes across bio-based value chains. An interactive segment will invite participants to share their perspectives and collaboratively identify potential solutions to overcome existing barriers, fostering resilient and sustainable bio-based value chains.</p>
	<p><b>13:30 – 13:45</b></p> <p>Presentations from the cluster (key results &amp; recommendations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Myrna van Leeuwen (WR)</li> <li>• Gabriela Lopez Camey (Preferred by Nature)</li> <li>• Luciano Proto Cassina (nova-Institut)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>13:45 – 14:10</b></p> <p>Interactive session</p>

	<b>14:10 – 14:25</b>	Discussion of the project results, interactive session and conclusion
	<b>14:25 – 14:30</b>	Key takeaways
<p><b>14:30 – 15:30</b>  <b>Session III: “Assessing the feasibility of voluntary sustainability certification: costs, benefits, challenges and ways forward”</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Birka Wicke (Radboud University)</b></li> </ul>	<p>This session will address the overall feasibility of voluntary sustainability schemes, presenting key results from the cluster’s research on (economic) feasibility: key challenges of certification, important cost items and benefits, as well as enabling factors to address challenges. Remaining knowledge gaps will also be identified. With panellists representing the diversity of stakeholders, we will discuss strategies to address challenges and to increase feasibility.</p>	<p><b>14:30 – 14:50</b> Presentations from the cluster (key results &amp; recommendations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costanza Rossi (SQ-Consult)</li> <li>• Lusine Aramyan (WR)</li> <li>• Sofia Maria Ioannidou (AUA)</li> </ul> <p><b>14:50 – 15:15</b> Panel discussion with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yuki Hamilton Onda Kabe (Braskem)</li> <li>• Laura Väyrynen (ECOS)</li> <li>• Harmen Willemse (Better Biomass)</li> <li>• Joyce de Wit (RVO)</li> </ul> <p><b>15:15 – 15:25</b> Q&amp;A from all participants</p> <p><b>15:25 – 15:30</b> Key takeaways</p>
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
<p><b>16:00 – 17:20</b>  <b>Session IV: “How can voluntary sustainability certification schemes drive the transition to a sustainable bioeconomy”</b></p> <p><b>Moderators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sergio Ugarte (SQ Consult)</b></li> <li>• <b>Stefan Majer (DBFZ)</b></li> </ul>	<p>This dynamic and interactive session will summarize the most valuable insights derived from the different sessions of the day and the meetings of the Roundtable of Certification Schemes promoted by the BIOBASEDCERT cluster, focussing on key strategic recommendations. Participants will engage in translating project results into actionable future steps, identifying critical gaps, and providing inputs for shaping policies directions to drive the establishment of a sustainable circular bioeconomy.</p>	<p><b>16:00 – 16:05</b> Welcome</p> <p><b>16:05 – 16:15</b> Projects4Future Workshop Insights: Tools and Recommendations on Standards, Certifications, Labelling and Monitoring for the Bioeconomy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susanna Albertini (FVA New media Research)</li> </ul> <p><b>16:15 – 16:30</b> Introduction and summary of key messages from previous sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iris Vural Gursel (Wageningen Research)</li> <li>• Silvia Maltagliati (DG RTD)</li> <li>• Birka Wicke (Radboud University)</li> <li>• Lara Dammer (nova-Institut)</li> </ul> <p><b>16:30 – 16:45</b> Policy and platform recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stefan Majer (DBFZ)</li> </ul> <p><b>16:40 – 17:05</b> Discussion on recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piergiuseppe Morone (Unitelma la Sapienza)</li> </ul> <p><b>17:05 – 17:20</b> Q&amp;A with all participants and key take aways</p>
<b>17:20 – 17:30</b>	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luana Ladu (TU Berlin)</li> </ul>	
<b>17:30 – 19:00</b>	Networking event	