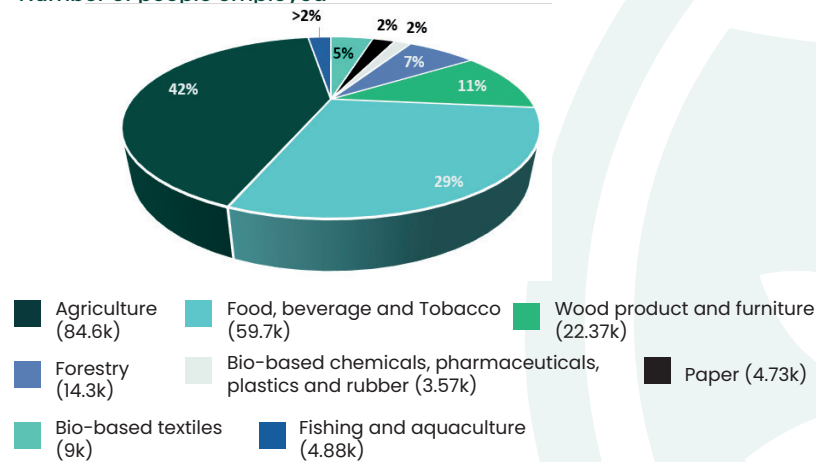


Croatia's bioeconomy has a significant part on the national economy holding great potential for development and demonstrating notable advancement in recent years. Leveraging its agricultural prowess and research expertise, the bioeconomy in Croatia proactively expands its horizons toward sustainable biomass utilization encompassing agriculture, forestry, and waste management. The Croatian bioeconomy is supported by commitment to research, innovation, fostering collaboration between academia and industry, and harnessing renewable resources to drive lasting economic prosperity.

At its core, the Croatian bioeconomy emphasis is on bio-based sectors optimizing resource efficiency, and facilitating the shift towards a low-carbon economic model. Noteworthy is the presence of regional (subnational) strategies that further bolster the bioeconomic landscape in Croatia. The key document strategizing the development of Croatian bioeconomy now is the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2030, while a dedicated bioeconomy strategy and action plan are under development.

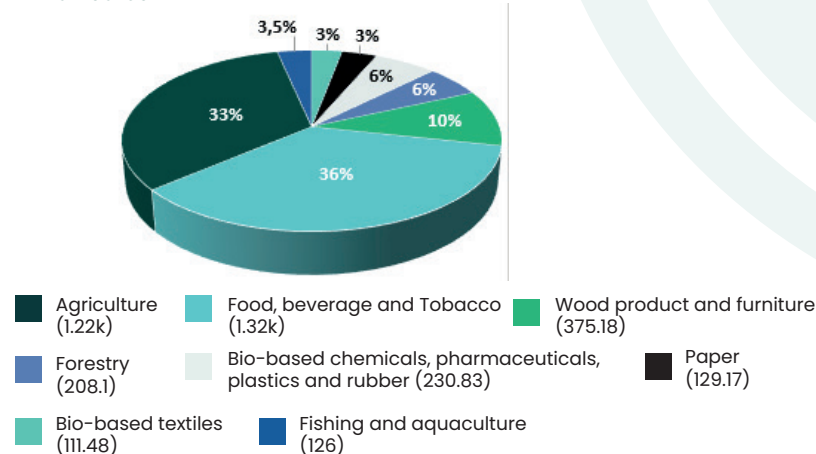
## Employment by sector in Croatia (2020)

Number of people employed



## Value added by sector in Croatia (2020)

Million euros





Duration  
**Until 2030**

Responsible authorities



Ministry of Regional Development and European Funds


Croatia

# National Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2030

Dominant sectors

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Fishing and aquaculture
- Textiles
- Bioenergy & Biofuels
- Food, Feed & Beverages

Other related strategies

-  Croatian Smart Specialisation Strategy S3 (2016– 2020).
-  Dedicated Bioeconomy Strategy at national level under development (as of April 2022).

## Policy instruments

### Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Croatia for the Period 2014-2020



It is a document defining 16 measures aimed at increasing the competitiveness of Croatian agriculture, forestry and processing industry, as well as improving the living and working conditions in rural areas.

### Operational Programme for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Croatia for the programming period 2014-2020



Programme objectives: to promote a competitive, environmentally and economically sustainable and socially responsible fisheries and aquaculture sector, balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and aquaculture areas and to foster the development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy of the European Union.

### Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO)



HAMAG-BICRO issues guarantees for bank credits approved by credit institutions and other legal entities approving loans to SMEs and makes direct financial contributions to SMEs in the form of grants.

## Bioeconomy in Croatia

### Collaborative structures

#### Croatian Science Foundation

This organization has regular open calls for project financing, that include research projects on the national level. More than 500 projects were funded, of which around 50 projects are related to bio-based and bioeconomy-related sectors.

#### Croatian Chamber of Commerce

Croatia's largest business network linking key economic sectors through county chambers, associations, and international offices. They provide services and contribute to enhancing entrepreneurship and competitiveness with a focus on sustainable, socially responsible growth. CCC is involved in the drafting of the Bioeconomy Strategy until 2035 involving members from the sectors of Agriculture and Industry and Sustainable Development.

#### CIRTT – Centre for Research, Development and Technology Transfer at the University of Zagreb

Assists research groups at the university in securing financial support for research and development. Connects research groups with partners from the business sector and helps establish collaboration in the development of technology and commercialization of intellectual property created at the university.

#### Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development (HBOR)

Through its specialized programmes HBOR provides support to start-ups, exporting companies, new production and companies from different sectors of economy such as industry, tourism, environmental protection and energy efficiency, agriculture...

#### EIT Climate KIC Hub in Croatia

A consortium of 8 organisations that aims to promote and establish a sustainable and responsible economy, working on innovative solutions, operating and building systemic changes including all sectors and levels of society. .

#### BIOCentre

One of the first research infrastructures in Croatia. It provides Business assistance and advisory services for biotech companies, laboratory space, conference rooms and fully equipped offices are available for rent; technology transfer via Central laboratory, a range of process development services; courses in business development and product development. It builds a network between individuals, companies and institutions in biotech and financial sectors

#### *Showcase*

### **BioBRIDGES**

Addressing key challenges in improving the marketability of bio-based products (BBPs) by fostering close cooperation and partnerships among bio-based industries, brand owners and consumers' representatives. BioBRIDGES aims to bridge the gap between scientific research and societal needs, promoting a more inclusive and participatory approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.