

Renewable Resources



Sustainable Future

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Finnish Minister of Agriculture and Forestry calls for more weight on the renewable resources

Nordic and Baltic countries highly depend on sustainable consumption and production patterns of natural resources. Therefore it is important to optimize the use of natural resources better in the future. "Governments must fully acknowledge their responsibility and define their policies so that the use of natural resources and economic growth rest on a sustainable basis", **Sirkka-Liisa Anttila**, Finnish Minister of Agriculture and Forestry aligned today in the opening session of the "Renewable Resources – Sustainable Future" - forum, arranged by the Finnish Forest Association.

"It is evident that we have to replace more of the use of non-renewable resources by renewable resources", minister stated. She remarked that another challenge is to reduce the negative environmental impacts of resource use without compromising economic growth. That's why we have to use resources wisely, "We need to get more from less".

We need more up to date information from different countries in order to optimize and politically steer the use of natural resources. The demand for dialogue between different natural resource sectors is also evident. A good forum for the dialogue would be the International Panel on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources which founding is considered by the United Nations. But more cooperation between the Nordic and Baltic countries in the production and collection of information is also needed.

"The European bio-economy cannot compete on a global level by delivering only basic agricultural commodities, but needs to build on other strengths", **Monika Sormann** from the European Commission said. According to Sormann, Europe's strengths are its ability to create innovations, bio- and enzyme technologies and strong chemical industry. Renewable natural resources have an important role in all of them.

President of Finnish Forest Association **Juha Hakkarainen** reminded that wood is a good example of renewable resources. In Finland the forest industry produces besides pulp, paper, timber and many other products also energy. Its share of all bioenergy produced in Finland is 80 percent.

"Renewable Resources – Sustainable Future" is a cross-sectoral forum, bringing together about 30 natural resources specialists from the Baltic and Nordic countries. It was organized in connection with Finnish presidency in Nordic Council of Ministers and it was funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland and Nordic Council of Ministers.

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Forum and opening speeches:
Finnish Ministry on Agriculture and Forestry:
Nordic Council of Ministers:

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