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### Forests in a green economy: activities and initiatives from Germany

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## Overview

- Towards a green economy: the energy change
- Facts on German forests and timber industry
- New national forest strategy
- Recycling and wood recoverage
- German Country-Led initiative “Contributions of Forests to a Green economy”, 4-7 October in Bonn – contributing to Rio+20



## Germany in a global context

- Globally, grain production will have to be raised by 50 % (by 2030)
- Domestic food demand in Germany is decreasing.
- Demands of German consumers on product and process quality is increasing



## General political framework

- Recent pressure and decision to end use of nuclear power by 2022 affirmed political will to restructure the energy sector towards a bioeconomy
- German Energy concept:
  - 30% renewable energy (RE) by 2020
  - Today: 11% share of RE / 70% from biomass
  - 2050-targets:
    - 60% RE
    - 50% reduction in overall energy use
    - 30% of RE from biomass



## Energy concept: Main guiding principles

- Security and continuity of supply
- Economic efficiency
- Environmental protection



## Energy concept: A bundle of activities

- Examples:
- Obligatory partial use of renewables in heatings for new buildings
- New regulated tariffs for renewable energy from private sources
- Strict air quality control provisions for furnaces
- Planning Acceleration Act - securing future power production
- Network Expansion Acceleration Act - securing energy transport



## Looking beyond energy: General raw material policy of Germany

- Environmental compatibility of natural resources use
- Increasing sustainability of production processes along the whole supply chain
- Strengthening consumer's awareness, knowledge and responsibility
- Supporting transparency initiatives, certification, due care policies, FLEGT, Green Building movement etc. at all levels



## Related to material use of biomass

- In view of global competition and rising prices of raw materials plus climate change demands
- Additional German objective to enhance material uses of biomass (Food and Non-Food)
- But: Priority of food use!



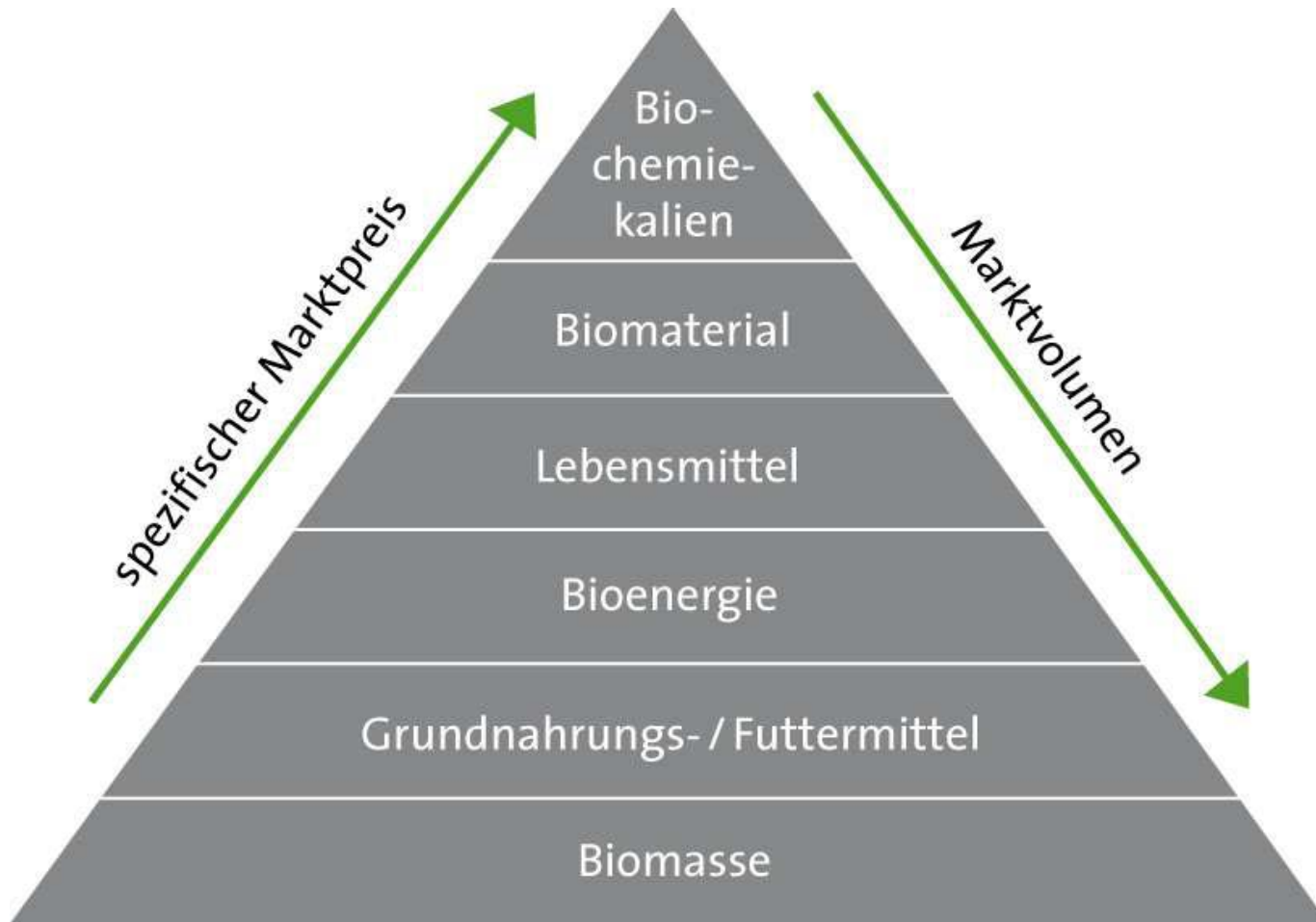


## Securing competitiveness of German industry

- To be increased :
- Efficiency in use and in production of biomass products along the whole supply chain (cascade uses)
- Research and innovation (potential estimated as high)
- To optimize use of the limited area and biomass supply in Germany: focus on products with low market volume but high volume prices



# Bio-based Economy (following Langeveld et al 2010)



# Forest and wood in Germany



Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy, 10-14 October, Antalya Turkey



## Forests and Wood in Germany

- Facts:
- 11 million hectares (one third of the national territory)
- 320 cubic metres per hectare
- 100 mio m<sup>3</sup> annual timber increment in accessible forests (=10 m<sup>3</sup> per hectare).
- Only 30 % of forests owned by the state



## Forest and timber industry

- Total wood consumption (2010) 108 million m<sup>3</sup> round-wood equivalents
- Supply from German forests: 70 Mio m<sup>3</sup>
- Waste paper from domestic production 45 million m<sup>3</sup>
- 1.3 million jobs
- Annual turnover of about € 170 billion



## New National Forest Strategy 2011

- Ensuring multifunctionality of German forests, i.e. balancing demands!
- Maintaining enabling conditions for non-state forest owners
- Activating the potential of wood in a green economy, improving efficiency of use
- Innovation and new products
- Targeting closed cycles, better positioning of wood in „green“ buildings
- Wood from other sources



## Forests and Climate Fund

- To be established by 2013
- To be financed through part of the sales of emission certificates
- To support the adaptation of forests and supporting the role of forests and wood in mitigating climate change



## Waste paper and recoverage

- Waste paper recycling:
- From 60% quota (2000) to 71% (2010)
- Germany among world leaders
  
- Recovered wood:
- 8 mio t (2010)
- To be further improved
- Strengthening competitiveness with other materials: better separation of quality grades (for further material uses)





## Recent initiative at global level: UN Conference „Contributions of forests to green economy“, 4-7 October in Bonn - Positioning the forestry sector in the transition process towards a green economy

- German Initiative in support of UNFF and the preparatory process of the Rio+20 conference 2012
- Supported by Finland and Austria
- 120 participants from more than 50 countries
- Forestry and green economy in a global context



## Main outcomes

- Strategic document and strong message for Rio+20 preparations on the importance of forests for a green economy
- Outlining the unique opportunity that the transition to a green economy provides for attaining the full potential of forests to contribute to overcoming of today's world challenges, such as hunger, water scarcity, employment, renewable energy, resource efficiency and low-carbon economy, climate change and biodiversity loss.



- Future actions to unleash this potential
- Inter alia:
- Mainstreaming valuation of forests into markets and policies
- Improving institutions, governance and stakeholder participation
- Implementing the concept of benefitting people
- Enhancing the role of bio/forest-based products



- <http://www.forests-in-a-green-economy.de/>



- Thank You for your attention!

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