



Non-wood Forest Products: Definitions, Economic organization and Policies

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Non-wood Forest Products: Definitions, Economic organization and Policies



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General policy framework

NWFP are not agricultural products and not subject to the CAP → **no explicit forest policy on NWFP** but:

- The EU **Bioeconomy Strategy** is including NWFP
- An EU **Forest Strategy** is approved and implemented
- **Other sectorial policies** are conditioning the NWFP value chain



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Bioeconomy Action Plan 2018

SUSTAINABLE AND CIRCULAR, THE EU BIOECONOMY CAN:

- **Preserve nature, and restore healthy ecosystems**
- Create **1 million new green jobs** by 2030, in particular in rural and coastal areas
- **Turn waste** from farming, cities, food & forests into **new added values products**
- Provide **additional income for farmers, foresters and fishermen**
- **Replace fossil** material with **renewable alternatives**
- **Increase the carbon sink capacity** of soil, forest and ocean
- Develop substitutes to fossil based materials that are **bio-based, recyclable and marine biodegradable**






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<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/775a2dc7-2a8b-11e9-8d04-01aa75ac7131>

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Bioeconomy Action Plan 2018
14 key actions of the Bioeconomy Strategy Action Plan

1. Ensuring food and nutrition security

Today's food and farming systems are a fundamental part of the bioeconomy. However, Europe needs to be more innovative due to the changing consumer demands for sustainable food production and consumption practices, the growing world population, the need to diversify biomass demand and sourcing, as well as climate change threats.

From animal-based food to plant-based food

up efforts to support the sustainable, healthy, resilient, circular and inclusive food and farming systems. Significant opportunities for bio-based product and process innovation in agriculture, forestry, marine and food can be further realised, with equitable benefits for primary producers. These include small-scale biorefineries that could be established by primary producers alone or in cooperative business models.

2. Deploy local bioeconomies

3. Understand the ecological boundaries

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WildFood

New EU Forest Strategy for 2030

2. Supporting the socio-economic functions of forests for thriving rural areas and boosting forest-based bio-economy within sustainability boundaries

- Sustainable raw wood and **non-wood materials and products are key in the EU's transition to a sustainable climate-neutral economy.**
- ...
- In addition to the wood-based economy, forests offer a variety of equally important additional products and services, from food to ecotourism, which support the economies and the social fabric in rural areas. The estimated **value of all harvested non-wood products in Europe is EUR 19.5 billion per year. This amounts to EUR 77.8 per hectares per year.** 86% of the harvested non-wood forest products are for personal consumption.
- The EU Forest Strategy acknowledges and aims to boost the entire sustainable forest bioeconomy that works in synergy with the EU's increased climate and biodiversity ambition.

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PRIMA
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

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New EU Forest Strategy for 2030

2.3. Promoting non-wood forest-based bioeconomy, including ecotourism

- *EU forests provide highly valuable non-wood products, such as **cork (80% of the worldwide production), resin, tannins, fodder, medicinal and aromatic plants, fruits, berries, nuts, roots, mushrooms, seeds, honey, ornamentals and wild game**, which often benefit the local communities. They contribute about **20% of the marketable value of forests**, and their potential for generating additional revenues to the owning communities can be further promoted and supported in cooperation with the national and local authorities and actors.*

Both food and on non-food raw materials;
Strong link with local communities development



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New EU Forest Strategy for 2030

*To seize benefits from non-wood products to rural communities in forested landscapes and supporting producers' organisations, **the Commission will promote the elaboration of coordinated and integrated regional, national and subnational programmes** on the sustainable production of non-wood forest products.*

A relevant statement:
an «institutionalization»
of the Incredible white
paper?



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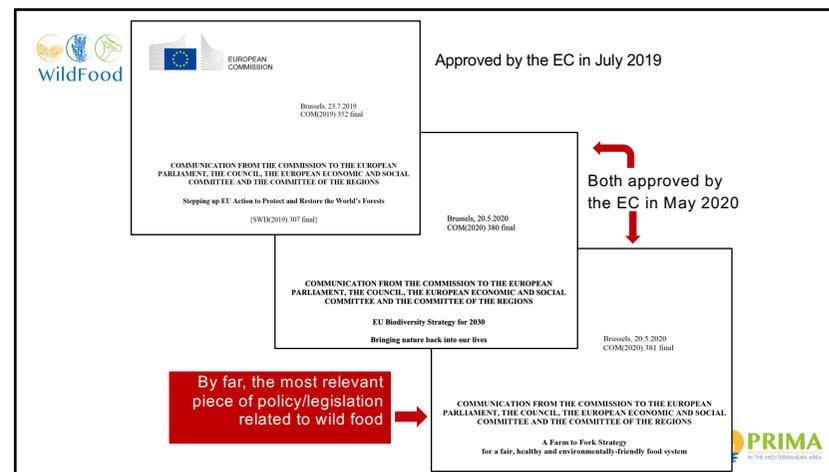


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WildFood **Food regulation policies**
«Wild» and «natural products»

- No legal definition of «Wild food product»

... but a **legal definition of “naturally/natural” as attribute of food products** to be used in claims:

Where a food naturally meets the condition(s) laid down in this Annex for the use of a nutritional claim (only for natural mineral water and natural sugar), the term 'naturally/natural' may be used as a prefix to the claim (Annex to Reg. 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods)



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WildFood

amazon.it

Ciao, Scegli il tuo indirizzo Alimenti e cura della casa

Tutte Bestseller Amazon Basics Servizio Clienti Novità Offerte Prime Musica Moda Libri Scopri come aver

Alimentari e cura della casa Promozioni Bestseller Caffè, tè e bevande Snack dolci e salati Pasta Salse e sughhi Prodotti senza glutine Ben

Q Honey Miele Naturale
Grezzo 1 kg | 100% Puro Miele, Non Filtrato - Direttamente Dall'alveare
Visita lo Store di Q honey
★★★★☆ 504 voti

Non disponibile.
Non sappiamo se o quando l'articolo sarà di nuovo disponibile.

Nome sapore: **Miele di bosco e di campo**

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 **Food regulation policies**

In this context, “Wild food product” are considered as **normal food products**

→ Implementation of general regulations on safety, traceability, packaging, claims and labelling, ...



Farm to Fork strategy

Legislative framework for sustainable food systems

International dimension

Sustainable food consumption

Food loss and waste prevention

Sustainable food processing, wholesale, retail, hospitality and food services

Sustainable food production

https://ec.europa.eu/food/horizontal-topics_en

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 **Claims, standards development, certification & labelling policies**

Attributes that get the main interest by operators:

- **Quality and safety** (private and public initiatives)
- Territorial traditional **origin** (mainly public initiatives)
- **Organic system** of production (public initiatives)
- Packaging (mainly public initiatives)
- **Sustainability** of forest management (private initiatives, till now)
- **Wild** products (private initiatives)
- **Negative nutritional criteria**: cholesterol, sugar, (saturated) fat, sodium, ... free (private and public initiatives)

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Common Agricultural Policy (2023-27)

First pillar: direct payments to farmers and measures to manage agricultural markets; no role played by NWFP (EAGF)

Second pillar: Rural Development Policy (EAFRD): funding for investments, knowledge-building, innovation and co-operation: plantations, forest management, mechanization, creation of associations, marketing investments, training, innovative experiences,

...

Implementations of the measures in the NWFP sector will depend on the National Plans



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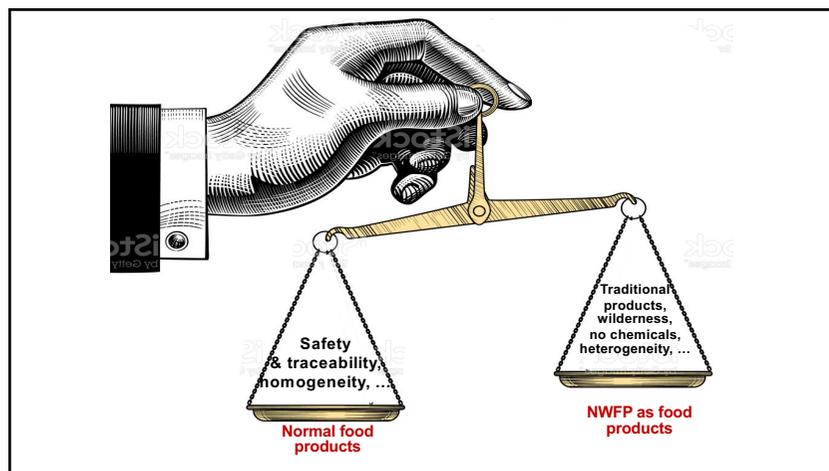


Points of consideration from the analysis of these policy documents

- An issue of terminology: «NWFP» or «NTFP» are, outside the forest world, unknown
- The **Rural Development Policy** is the main (potential) source of funding for the sector
- In relation to the **F2F policy development** (where health and safety criteria are prevailing), wild (or semi-wild) forest products have **more competitive dis-advantages** than competitive ones



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Fiscal policies

No common fiscal policy (VAT rate): a missed opportunity for creating fair conditions of competition,

while a well-regulated fiscal organization, as demonstrated by the Italian experience in the reform of the truffle fiscal regulations, could support the **emergence of the informal market** and enhance the **monitoring capability of the transactions and operators** of the sector



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Take home messages

- NWFP are **implicitly included** in many pieces of policy documents
- There is a **formal commitment by the EU** to develop a sectoral policy
 - **Monitoring** and **advocacy** are needed!
 - **Positive attitude by citizens** towards wilderness and wild products → room for improving the image of the forest sector (and specifically of the MENA forestry)
- In a context of lack of specific norms to support the food component of NWFP, **the generic ones are those more relevant** (health & safety, fiscal and trade regulations, land property rights regulations, certification and labelling, ...)



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There is a substantial **contradiction** between the **general values of the Green Deal** (bioproducts, sustainability, rural development, nature-based solutions...) and the **practical policy tools** for regulating the food sector that are favouring standard and homogenous products, with advanced system of safety and quality control, without recognising (semi) wild, minor products.

