



Preliminary Report on Bioeconomy Regional Forum Series

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Bioeconomy Regional Forum Series

- **Purpose**: Engage stakeholders on how to build and grow the “Billion Ton Bioeconomy”
- **Goal**: In partnership with U.S. Department of Agriculture and Department of Energy, bring together a mix of stakeholders from six industry sectors to seek their input, relative to the initiative’s vision, strategies, and implementation.

Bioeconomy Regional Forum Series

- ▶ **Co-host 5 regional forums, each with 40-60 attendees representing 6 sectors:**
 - ▶ (1) industry;
 - ▶ (2) state and local government;
 - ▶ (3) economic and workforce development;
 - ▶ (4) investment & finance;
 - ▶ (5) academia; and
 - ▶ (6) agricultural and environmental organizations.
- ▶ **Regional co-host developed invitation list with some input from BR&D Operations Committee (steering committee for series)**
 - ▶ Garner input on vision, strategy, and implementation of multi-year initiative
 - ▶ Compile regional reports, and comprehensive report of key issues, common themes, and regional uniqueness.

ATIP Foundation Regional Bioeconomy Forums:
***“Addressing the Challenges & Opportunities of
Advancing the Billion Ton Bioeconomy”***

Venues and Regional Co-hosts

Southeast: September 16, Atlanta, GA (Georgia Institute of Technology)

Southwest: September 29, Mineral Wells, TX (Chamber of Commerce)

Northwest: October 3, Seattle-Tacoma, Washington (Washington State University)

Northeast: October 18, Orono, ME (University of Maine)

Midwest: November 15, Columbus, OH (The Ohio State University)

National Sponsors





Common Themes Across All Regions

- Finance (Treasury)
- Education & Awareness
- Policy
- Supply Chain
- Workforce (Dept. of Labor, Dept. of Education)
- Federal Resources



Common Themes Across All Regions

➤ Finance (Treasury)

➤ Public Funding

- Incentivize public private partnerships
- Focus on scalability
- Consider allocations among bio, fossil, nuclear

➤ Access to Capital

- Govt guarantee loans – Challenges
- Private sector capital – Risk challenge



Common Themes Across All Regions

- ▶ **Education & Awareness**
 - ▶ Articulation
 - ▶ Definitions of bioeconomy & sustainability
 - ▶ Public awareness
 - ▶ Value Proposition
 - ▶ Case for support

Common Themes Across All Regions

➤ Policy

➤ Create a level playing field

- Incentives – stability
- Tax credits – competitive / comparative
- Loan Guarantees – access / cost / awareness
- Reduce risk --- purchasing agreements
- Reduce costs – technology know how

➤ Regulatory

- EPA



Common Themes Across All Regions

➤ Supply Chain

- Logistics
 - Slowest node
- Integration
 - Plan for various feedstocks
- Research



Common Themes Across All Regions

- ▶ **Workforce (Dept. of Labor, Dept. of Education)**
 - ▶ **Skills Development**
 - ▶ lack of technical training related to bioeconomy
 - ▶ Needs to start in 8th grade
 - ▶ Build talent pipeline
 - ▶ **Rural Development**
 - ▶ Lack of available employees
 - ▶ Lack of training options / opportunities



Common Themes Across All Regions

➤ Federal Resources

- Lack of awareness / knowledge
 - Patent License Agreements (PLA)
 - Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA)
 - Research focus needs to address industry problems
- Regional collaboration
 - Among agencies
 - Align with economic regions
 - Support for co-ops (e.g., biomass accumulators)



Common Themes Across All Regions

➤ General Comments

- Waste – more focus on how to utilize
- Balance
 - Fuel vs. bioproducts
 - Waste utilization vs. purposely grown
- Annual Regional Conferences
- Regional Projects

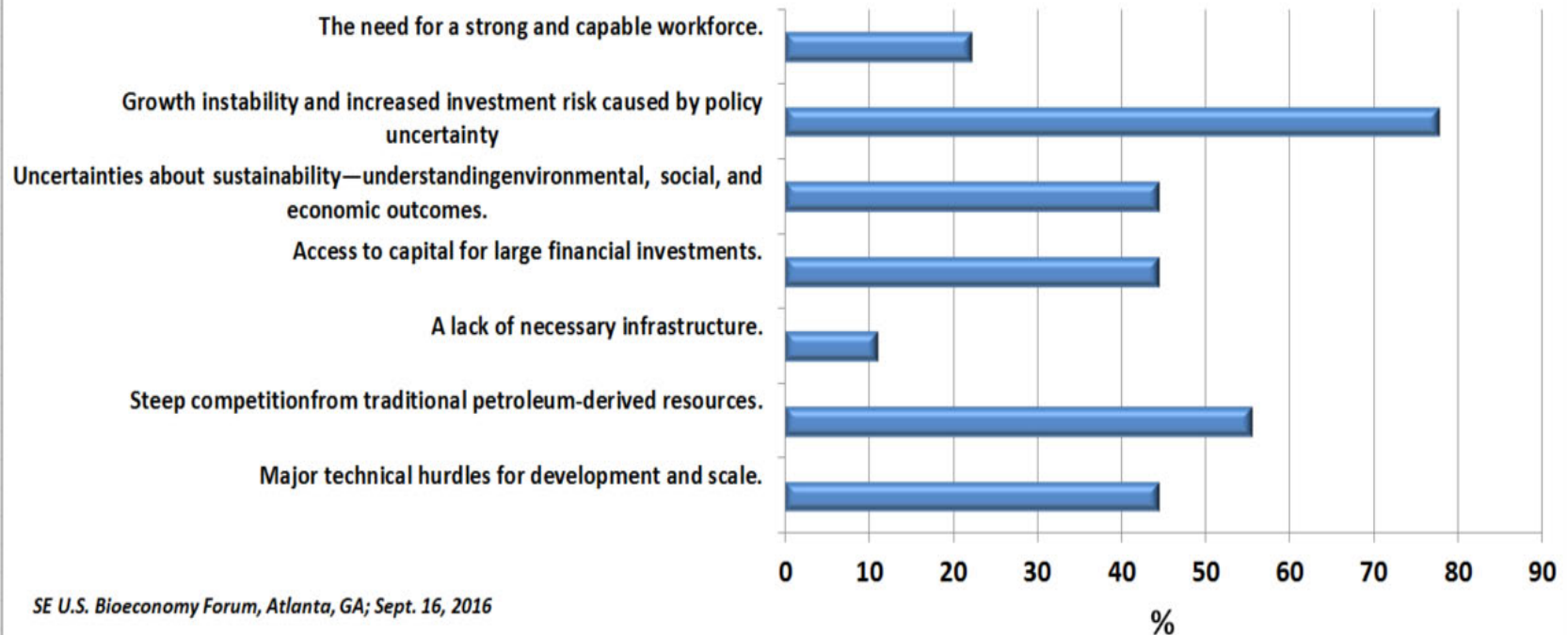
SE Regional Forum (Atlanta)

Table 1. Demographics (by sector) of invitees and participants, convened by co-host Georgia Tech, in SE Regional Bioeconomy Forum, Atlanta, GA, September 16, 2016 .

Sector Name	Invited	No. Participants	% RSVP to Attend	% of Attendees
Industry	60	7	12	22
State and local government	12	4	33	13
Economic and workforce development	18	3	17	9
Investment & finance	1	0	0	0
Academia	26	15	58	47
Agricultural and environmental organizations	7	3	43	9
	124	32	26	100

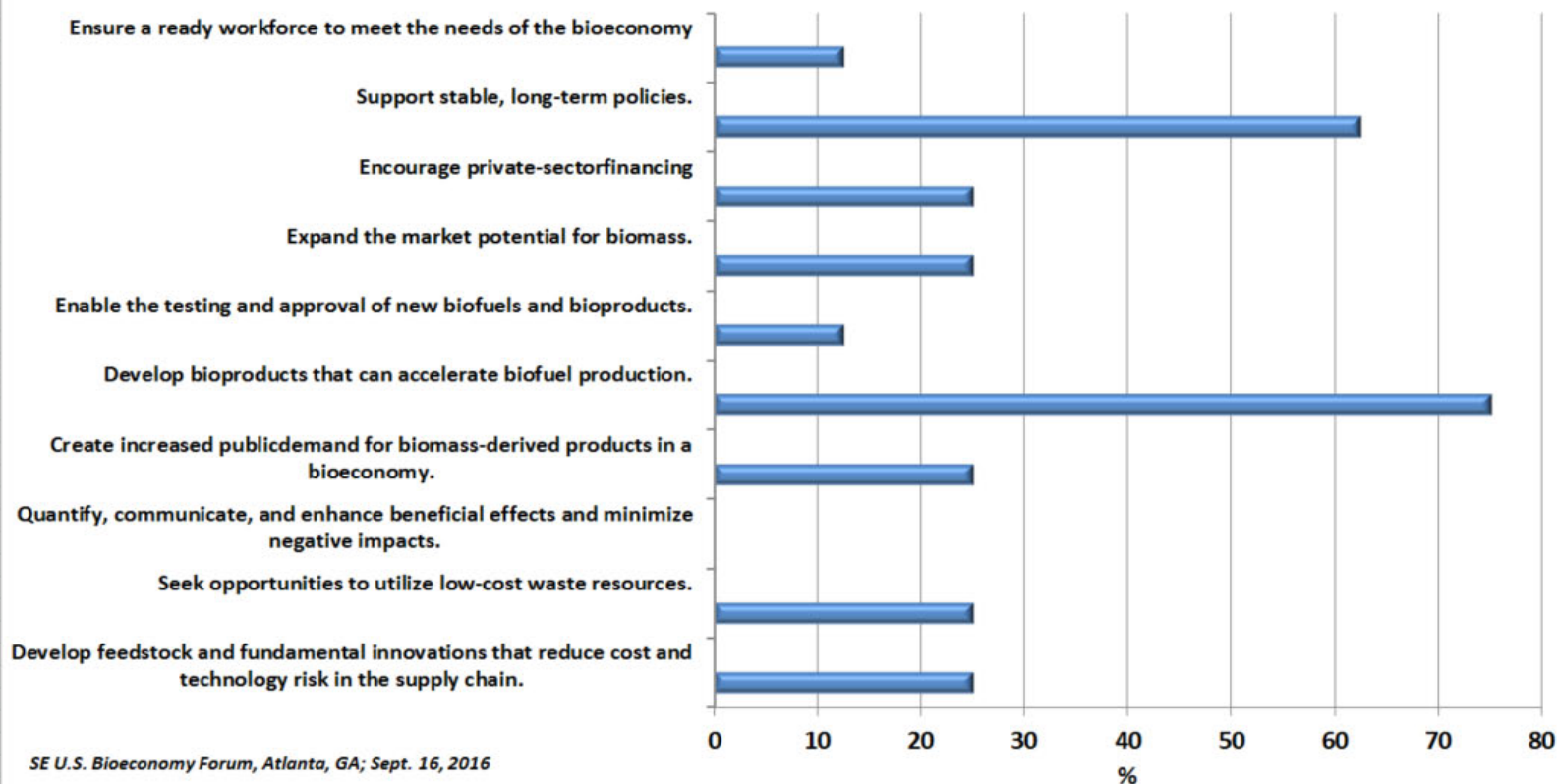
SE Regional Forum (Atlanta)

Challenges: Attendee Inclusion Among Top 3 Priorities (%)



SE Regional Forum (Atlanta)

Opportunities: Attendee Inclusion Among Top 3 Priorities





SE Regional Forum (Atlanta)

Sample of specific regional strengths / issues identified

- ▶ Successful pulp and paper industry as springboard for growth of the bioeconomy
 - ▶ good expertise, infrastructure, supply chains, workforce, and successful operating markets
- ▶ Wood pellet industry
 - ▶ strong but could broaden current export focus with modified products for domestic market
- ▶ Past regional biofuel failures
 - ▶ fostered caution
 - ▶ healthy skepticism can create a strong, successful program.



SE Regional Forum (Atlanta)

Sample of specific regional strengths / issues identified

- ▶ Extensive coastline with excellent ports
- ▶ Good rail, and air transport infrastructure supports supply chain for domestic and international markets
- ▶ Expansion of wood pellet industry could serve as example for other products to expand domestic / export markets
- ▶ ***Discussion called for a sustained policy, technology or economic impetus sufficient to support bioeconomy initiatives.***



SE Regional Forum (Atlanta)

Sample of specific regional strengths / issues identified

- ▶ Challenges in the southeast
 - ▶ current forest ownership and management patterns,
 - ▶ **workforce availability and training**
 - ▶ competing industries
 - ▶ state and local **policies**
 - ▶ ***General consensus: issues could be sorted out if there were sufficient impetus for bioeconomy initiatives***
- ▶ Recommend meeting annually
 - ▶ Sign of positive engagement and commitment to the bioeconomy

ABOUT

CONCEPT

PREMISE

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

RESEARCH & TRAINING

INITIATIVES

GOVERNANCE

FOUNDERS

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