



GO-GRASS

GO-GRASS White Paper for Grassland Opportunities – Findings and Policy Recommendations

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The GO- GRASS vision



Creation of new value chains based on unused grassland material.
Upscaling of existing business cases at local level.



Replication of existing business cases or models in **other geographical areas**.



Creation of **additional benefits** for farmers and producers **without competition** to food and feed production.

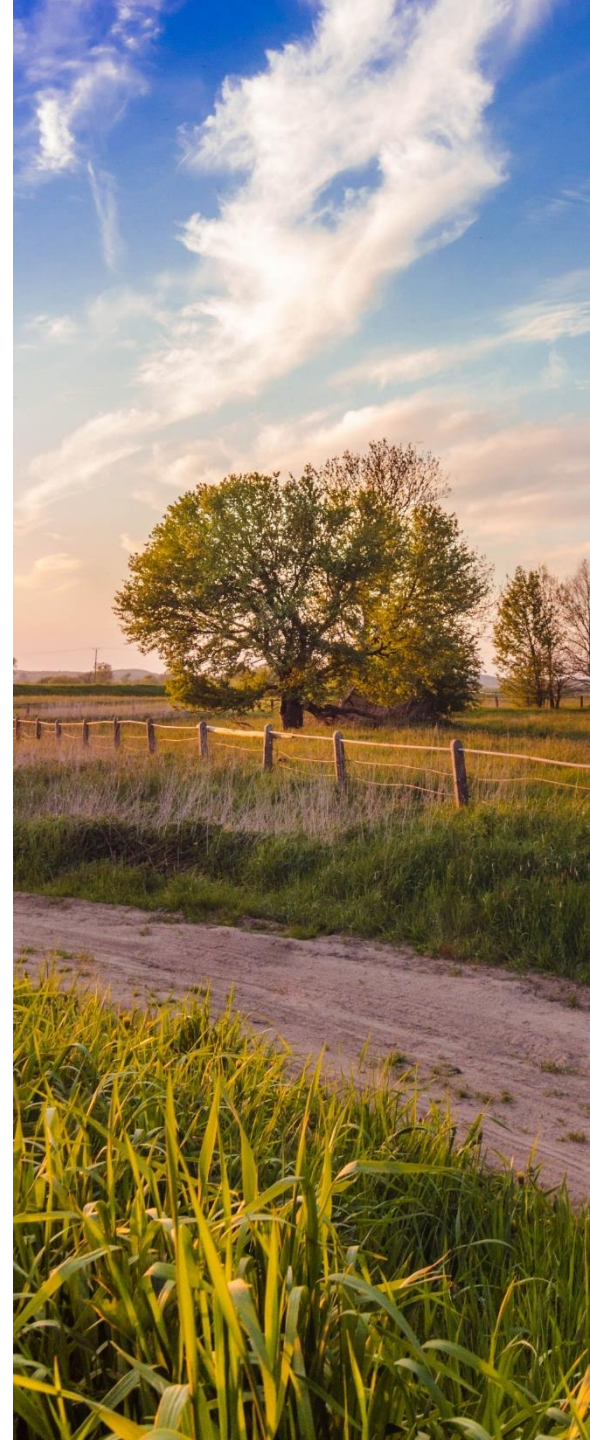




White Paper on Grassland Opportunities

The White Paper aims to demonstrate a wide range of opportunities and requirements for valorising grasslands based on the findings from GO-GRASS cases, and relevant best practices at local, national, and European levels.

The focus is on value chains, enabling business environments, policy gaps and best practices for policies that promote valorisation of grasslands and grasses.





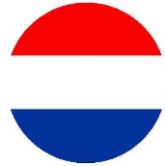
GO-GRASS Demonstration Cases



Biochar



Carbonisation of late-harvest grassland cuttings



Paper & Packaging



Fiber extraction from roadside and nature conservation grasses



Bedding Material



Briquetting technology for Reed Canary Grass



Organic Protein

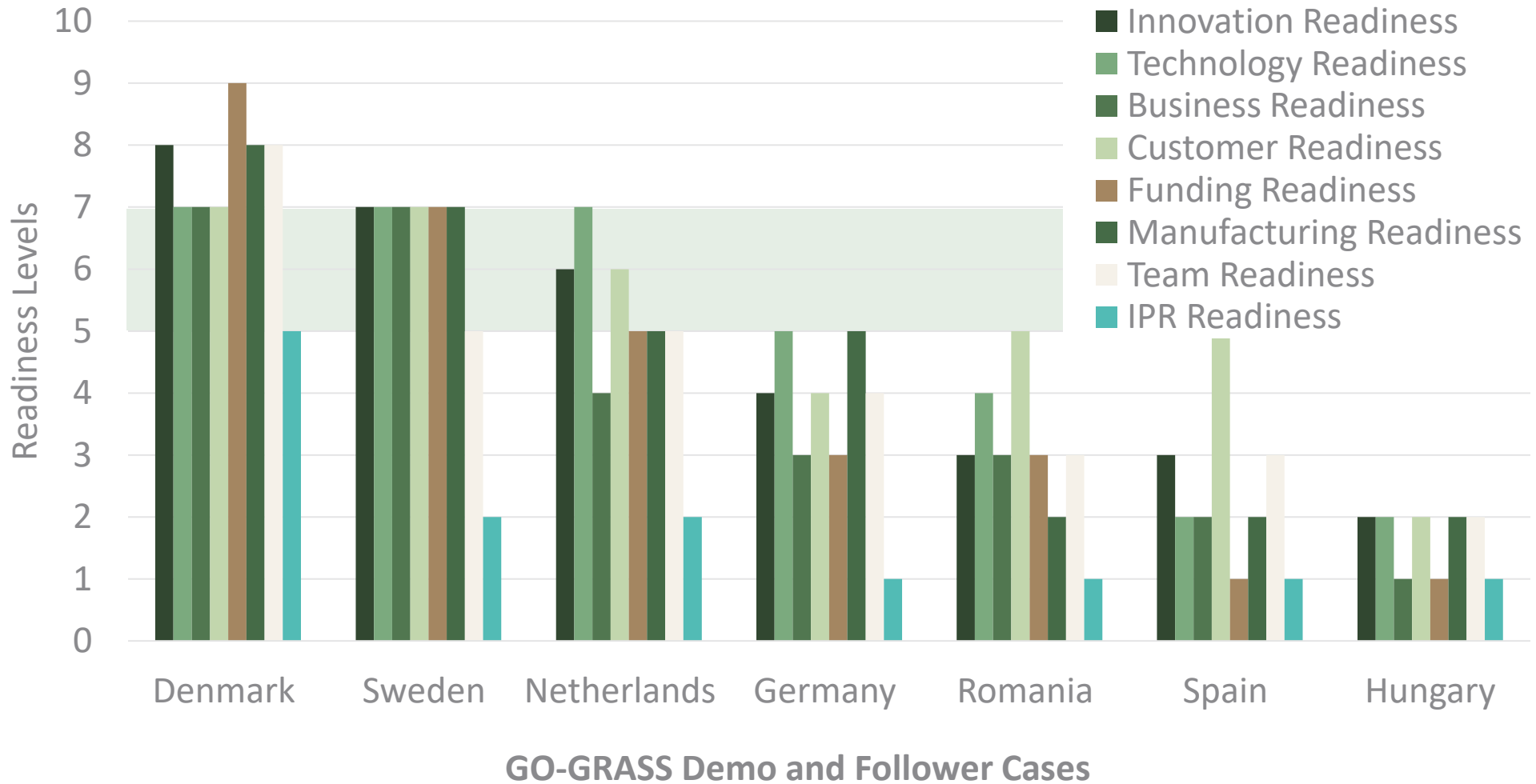


Farm-scale green biorefinery from fresh grass





Potential and expected readiness levels of GO-GRASS demo and follower cases

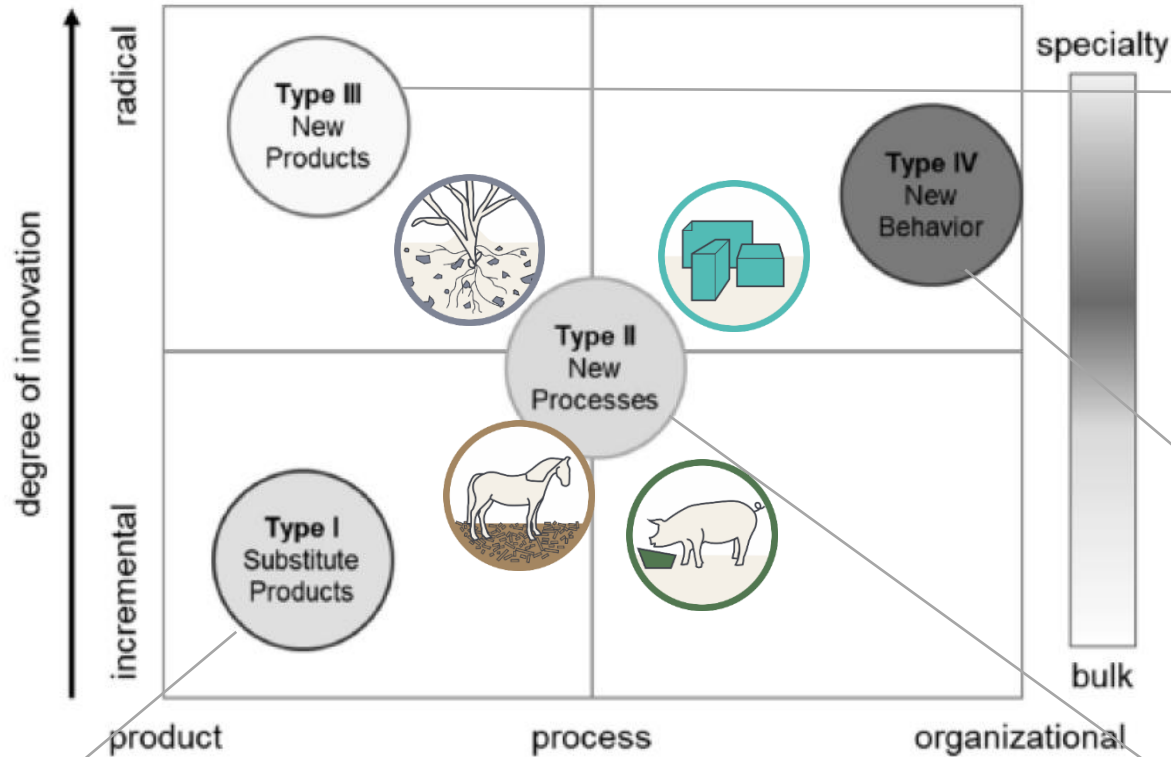


Orozco and Grundmann (2022)





Potential and expected readiness levels of GO-GRASS demo and follower cases



I. Resource and commodity substitution:

- Compete with fossil based industry.
- Secure feedstock availability (central/decentral).
- Integrate of new products in existing value chains.

III. New products and functions:

- Enhance consumer acceptance.
- Remove regulatory barriers.
- Increase TRL.
- Reduce development timespans.
- Provide more R&D investments.

VI. New behaviour:

- Support willingness to chance.
- Provide logistics.
- Design regulations for waste use.
- Solve path dependencies (B2B)

II. New biobased processes and value chains:

- Improve efficiency and economic viability.
- Create regulations for new processes.
- Address knowledge gaps and recombinations.
- Develop new value chains connections.





Recommendations

Regional and national level

EU-level

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Take a holistic view to valorising grassland biomass ➤ Coordinate potential support of government incentives and regulatory push effect ➤ Support conversion of arable land into grassland to preserve the environment ➤ Prioritize the provision of biomass resources for biorefineries ➤ Implement specific actions supporting the maintenance of grasslands threatened by abandonment ➤ Policy support to maintain the ecosystem services related to grasslands (fire control, tourism, biodiversity, high soil carbon content) ➤ Align fertilizer regulations at EU and national levels ➤ Provide policy support and advisory services for small- to medium- scale circular biochar business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote opportunities for diversification ➤ Maintain the area of grasslands ➤ Remove contradictory and restrictive regulation ➤ Recognise the importance of carbon content in grassland soils ➤ Create favorable business environment for increasing the carbon content of the soils ➤ Create financial incentives to encourage land manager engagement in carbon farming ➤ Develop monitoring systems to identify trade-offs in ecosystem services |
|---|---|





General Support Measures

- ❖ Increase awareness of the benefits of grasslands through **training, workshops, and outreach to consumers** via non-specialized media.
- ❖ Develop **ready to use business solutions** sold or made available through licensing.
- ❖ Organise **engaging and open policy dialogues to discuss best practices**.
- ❖ Establish **adequate knowledge transfer actions** that allow farmers to understand the new products delivered from grasslands.
- ❖ Promote the **establishment of farmers cooperatives**.





Outlook and Guiding Questions

- Is there a shared vision for grass-based tech solutions and businesses, and what readiness milestones need to be achieved to realise the vision of GO-GRASS Demos and other grass-based businesses?
- What should strategies look like that adequately address the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and risks of grass-based technologies, value chains and companies?
- What concrete measures need to be taken in the short, medium and long term to achieve the milestones?
- Which technologies should be prioritised and which business models should be promoted?
- What capacity factors should be prioritised in the development of grass-based value chains and enterprises, including learning and innovation capacities, collaborative structures, strategy development and processes, governance structures and others?
- Which areas in the business environment (i.e. markets, customer awareness, legislation, financing, resources, education, research and knowledge) need special attention for scaling-up the grass-based niche solutions to the regime level?
- What is required to ensure that niche solutions and businesses are circular, inclusive, replicable, cumulative and innovative?





GO-GRASS

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