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Presentations	Session 3.2	<i>Global Forest Bioeconomy: Continuity or a Pathway to Transformations? (Part 1)</i>

*Abstract Session 3.2 – Female labor and entrepreneurship within the forest-based bioeconomy discourse. A feminist political ecology perspective.*

Over the last decade, the transnational agendas of forestry and forest conservation have been active in the integration of gender equality concerns into the analysis and formulation of all policies, programs and projects. The frameworks on how to mainstream gender concerns and include ‘gender equity’ in forest governance have followed a standard problem-solution recipe: to promote equality, women need to be ‘empowered,’ and this can be done predominantly via the insertion of their labor into the forest and tree value chain. Technical ‘tool-kits’ have been designed to promote women’s labor and entrepreneurial skills in the forestry sector that are reproduced in the forest-based bioeconomy. Based on literature review, this paper traces the issue of gender in the forest-based bioeconomy policy discourse as it revolves in the European Union, and questions the prospects and limitations that the discourse is raising regarding gender equity in forestry practices globally. Drawing upon a feminist political ecology approach in this paper, I also problematize the notion of bioeconomy as a ‘more inclusive’ discourse and question the mechanisms that aim to discipline rural women’s lives and to set the conditions to transform them into “productive and entrepreneurial lives”.