

### Outlook of biomass in Argentina

Argentina counts since 2006 on a legal framework promoting the “National Promotion Scheme for the Use of Renewable Sources of Energy Aimed at Electric Generation” (Act No. 26,190). In 2015, the Act No. 27,191 “Renewable Sources of Energy in Electric Generation – National Promotion Scheme 2016 – 2025” came into force, proposing “to achieve a contribution of renewable sources of energy until reaching twenty per cent (20%) of the domestic consumption of electric energy, on December 31st, 2025”. Thus, the long-run development of bioenergy in Argentina counts on the invaluable advantage of having consolidated as a state policy.

In the specific case of biomass, in 2012, the Project for the Promotion of Biomass-derived Energy – PROBIOMASA was launched, an initiative carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Productive Development, with the technical and administrative assistance of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The BIOMASA Project estimates the potential of thermal generation out of biomass in about 6,200 MW. It could be supplied with an annual biomass generation of 25 million tons, including forest-industry residues, forest plantation residues, agricultural and agro-industrial residues, and the sustainable use of native forests. The potential could be even larger if the development of energy crops (forest or agricultural) is considered.

The forest-industrial sector is one of the most demanding of electric generation projects, especially small and medium sawmills, which see in steam production for driers and the partial self-generation of electricity the main exits to transform their production residues into a value-added input.

The Argentina 2030 Strategic Forest and Forest Industrial Plan -presented in December 2019 as a result of the interaction among the national public sector, the civil society and the private sector- has defined the objectives and courses of action for seven areas of the wood value chain, in accordance with the objectives of sustainable development and response to climate change agreed by Argentina. For “Thermal energy”, the production of 2.6 million tons of pellets and 2.1 million tons of chips with commercial standards, and the financing for construction and technological change of intermediate goods (boilers, heaters and their parts) are proposed as goals.