

Does Short Rotation Forestry have a future in Irish forestry? We asked industry to find out.

Ana de Miguel Muñoz



Waterford Institute *of* Technology
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA PHORT LÁIRGE

14th December, 2016



➤ Introduction

Research question:

What is the financial value of
Short Rotation Forestry in Ireland?



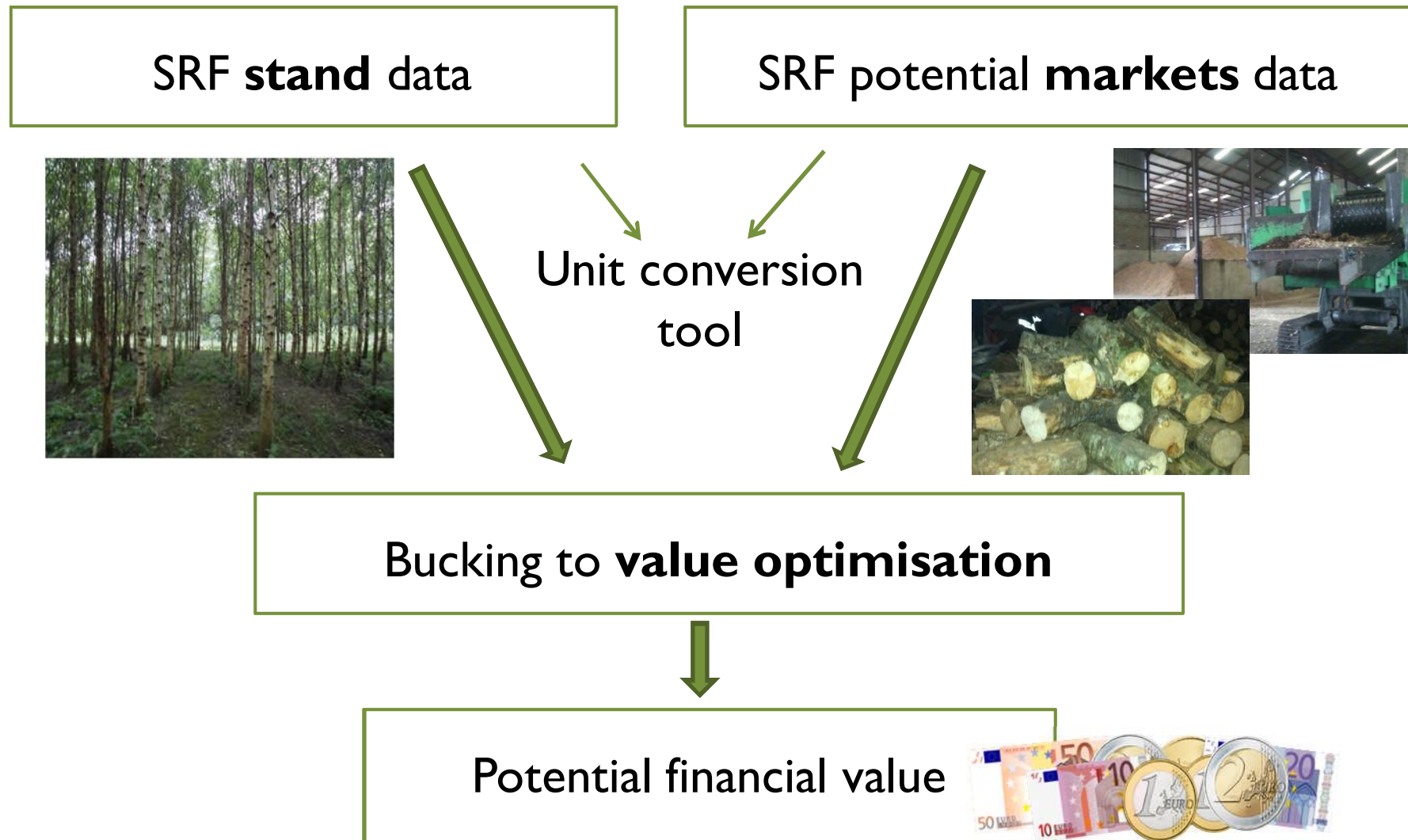
?



Objectives:

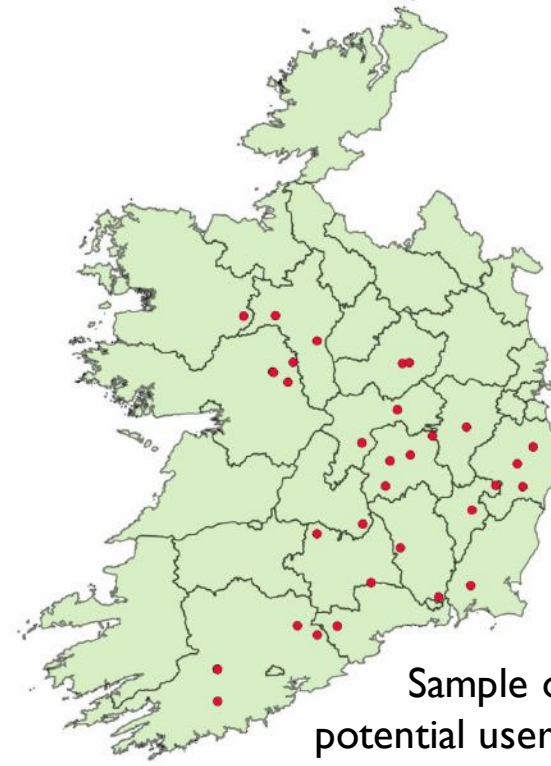
1. To identify **market opportunities** for growers of SRF in Ireland.
2. To **optimise the allocation of SRF products to maximise the financial value** from the point of view of the landowner .

Conceptual framework

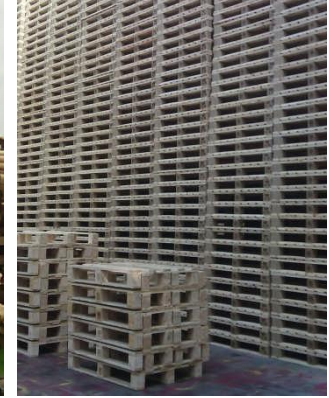


Sampling frame: Scope

- Wood energy: Firewood and woodchip for energy
- Panel board: Medium Density Fibre Board (MDF) and Orientated Strand Board (OSB)
- Sawmill: Fencing and pallet



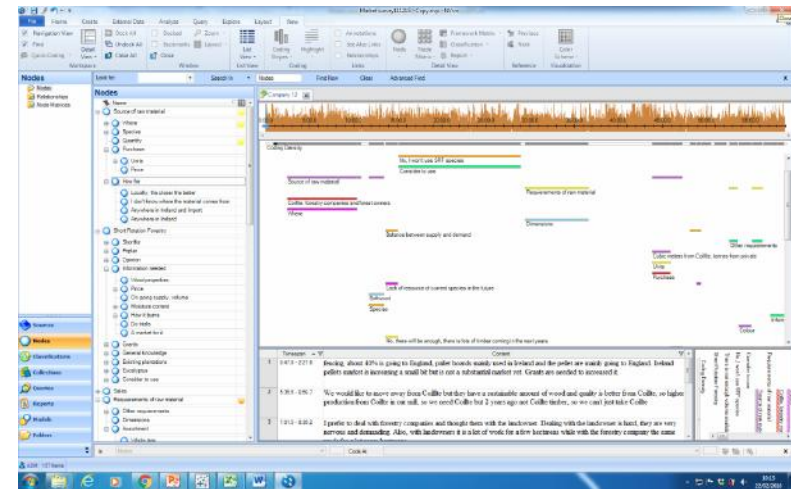
Sample of SRF
potential user companies
interviewed (30)



➤ Work done. Methodology: Market survey

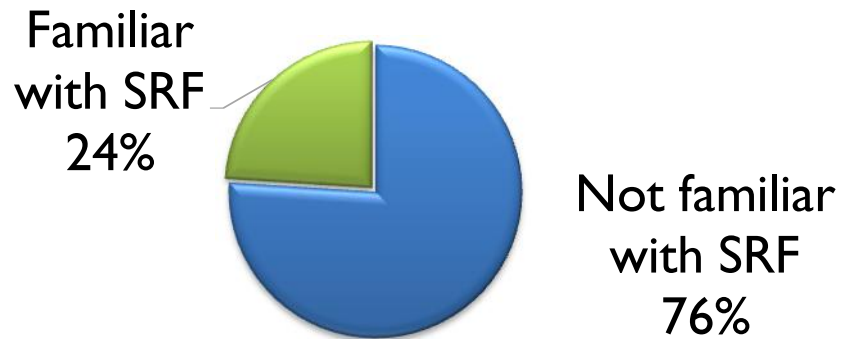
Interviews and analysis

- Semi-structured interview, face to face
- Questions:
 1. Awareness, perceptions and information wanted on SRF
 2. Source of raw material
 3. Requirements of raw material
 4. Purchase
 5. Supply-demand
- Responses analysis: spreadsheet and qualitative management data software NVivo 10

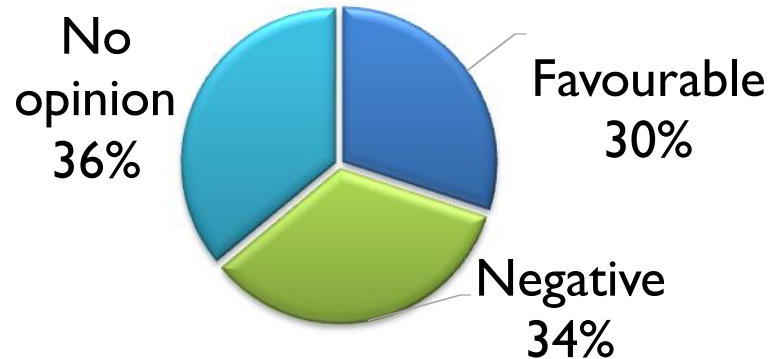


➤ Work done. Results: Market survey

Knowledge of SRF

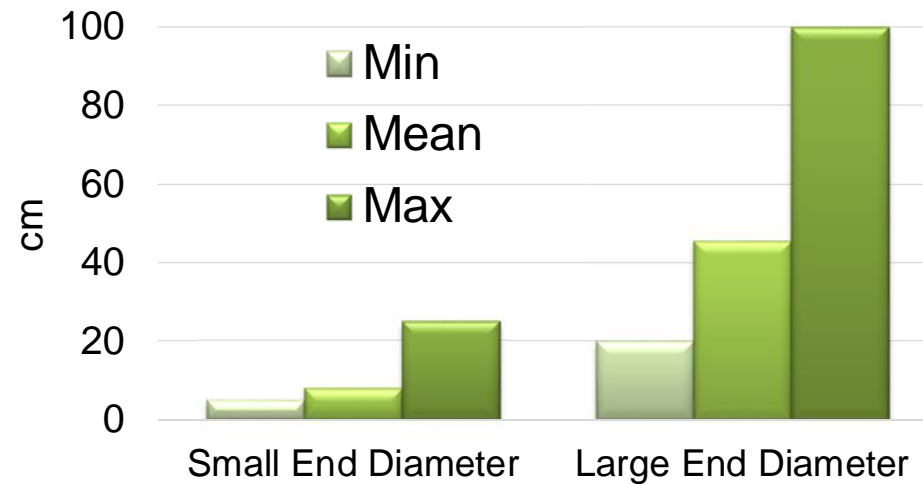


Willingness to use SRF



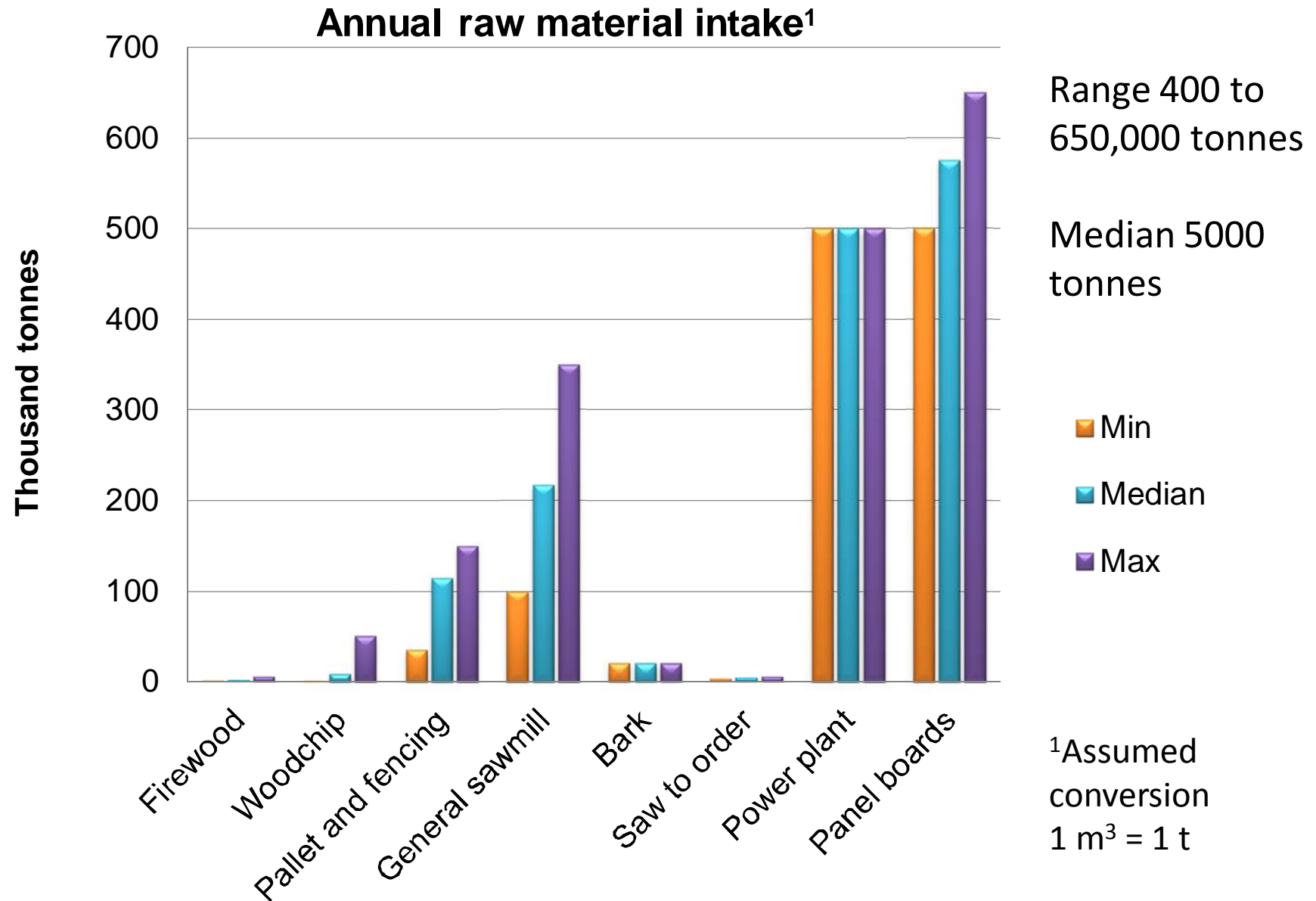
- SRF information and education needs were identified by 70%

Dimensions of preferred log from SRF

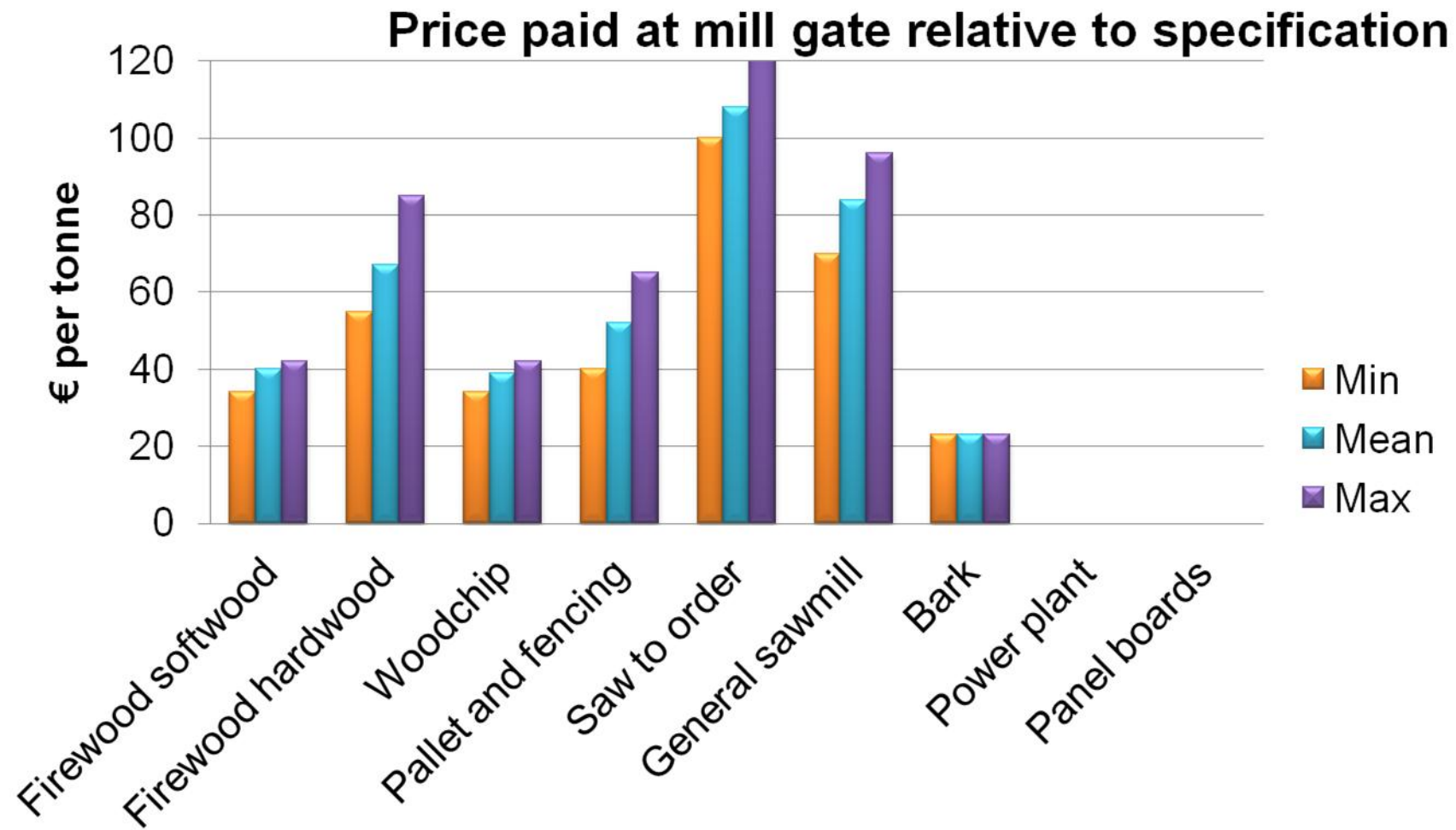


Length: typically 3m

➤ Work done. Results: Market survey



➤ Work done. Results: Market survey



➤ Work done. Conclusions: Market survey



- There is a **potential market** for SRF in Ireland
- The **wood energy** sector was the most favourable
- Further **research, development and dissemination** actions will be required to develop SRF in Ireland.
- Growers may need to **group** to effectively market SRF.
- Targets on renewables may not be met without **support measures** to stimulate the investment in wood energy.

➤ Future work. Value optimisation

