

GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy

ACTIVITY GROUP 2

Raising awareness and sharing of data and experiences from the implementation of the GBEP indicators

Proposal on how to give the activity group further substance, for consideration.

Introduction

During the GBEP Tokyo meeting, the working group on Capacity building raised several proposals for capacity building projects and activities to be undertaken. The Working Group agreed to establish three activity groups:

1. *Regional Forums on Sustainable Modern Bioenergy, with the initial discussion in West Africa* (proposed by the United States in cooperation with ECOWAS and other members);
2. ***Raising awareness and sharing of data and experiences from the implementation of the GBEP indicators*** (proposed by Germany and supported by other members); and
3. *Study tour for capacity building and training* (proposed by Brazil and supported by other members).

Consequently to an email consultation among all GBEP Partners and Observers ended on May 9th 2012, the following countries and organisations have indicated that they would like to join Activity Group 2:

- Cambodia
- Colombia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Mauritania
- Netherlands
- United States
- Switzerland
- ECREEE
- FAO
- IRENA
- UNEP

In order to gain relevant information on testing the GBEP sustainability indicators it would be good also to involve other relevant organizations or experts that are not directly GBEP Partners or Observers, but who could contribute to the learning curve in this activity group.

Activity group 2 will be co-chaired by Germany and Indonesia, and it will work mainly via e-mails and teleconferences.

Objectives of the activity group

In the coming months the GBEP indicators will be tested in the field. This will be done in different countries with different circumstances in climate, biodiversity, social and economic conditions. In some countries indicator evaluation pilot projects will emphasize the applicability of the indicators to country-specific circumstances. In other countries indicator pilot projects will lead to assessing and enhancing the capacity of these countries to use the indicators and to develop bioenergy policies. In these countries, indicator evaluation pilot projects will also test the feasibility and usefulness of the indicators.

The goals are to learn from the experience of using the indicators in the field and to share this knowledge and information within the Working Group in order to overcome problems, find solutions and improve the methodological application of the indicators. Adequate information sharing during testing should also help secure a common interpretation of the indicators.

A key next step for the adoption and use of the indicators is evaluating them in different countries with different national circumstances in order to acquire as broad experience as possible in evaluating the indicators.

Moreover, this activity group would also a good vehicle for awareness raising of the GBEP sustainability indicators and spreading the use of them to other countries and regions.

Method of working

- There will be a regular exchange of the preliminary results of the indicator evaluation pilot projects. This will be done by email, an e-forum or teleconferences in case needed.
- In order to optimize lessons learned from the pilot evaluation of the indicators, members of Activity Group 2 will inform each other in the ways that the data were collected, how data gaps could or couldn't be solved, and how the methodologies worked or could be improved in future. This sharing of experiences will facilitate peer-to-peer learning in a coherent, systematic way and will provide essential mechanisms for feedback of how the indicator pilot projects are progressing and how the indicators could be improved in future. This consistent way of sharing information will be developed in close collaboration with the members of the activity group.
- Activity group 2 will regularly report to the Working Group on Capacity Building on the experience and understanding gained from the implementation of the sustainability indicators.
- We anticipate meetings of the activity group to be held in conjunction with the plenary GBEP meetings, such as the upcoming meeting in Brazil. There may be meetings/workshops of the activity group where topics that came up during pilot projects can be discussed inter alia:
 - o System boundaries of the indicators
 - o How to handle differences in data availability between the countries
 - o Practicality of the indicators, e.g. soil sampling. Sampling must be done over bioenergy crop cultivation/harvesting areas. What to do if these areas are not known?
- During the plenary meetings side events may be organised to raise awareness for the use GBEP indicators.