

4th meeting of the GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)

Berlin, 29-30 May 2013

Co-Chair Conclusions

Background

The GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB) held its 4th meeting on 29 and 30 May 2013 in Berlin, kindly hosted by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) as well as the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) of the Government of Germany. Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mozambique, Netherlands, Paraguay, Philippines, Sudan, Sweden, United States of America, ECOWAS, European Commission, FAO, GACC, ICRAF, IEA Bioenergy, IRENA, OAS, Pangea and UNEP participated in the meeting as Partners and Observers. Representatives of the ECOWAS region, specifically from Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo also participated as special guests. The meeting was chaired by the United States of America.

The meeting of the 4th Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB) was preceded by the Policy Forum "Opportunities for Sustainable Bioenergy Development: National Experiences and Global Exchange", held on 28 May 2013 in Berlin. It was hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in cooperation with the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP), and organized by GIZ (German Academy for International Cooperation).

During this Forum an exchange on policies and projects able to foster sustainable biomass use in developing countries, with a focus on small-scale farmers and the rural population, was encouraged. Participants in this event presented first-hand experience on how to address rural development issues in bioenergy policies and projects, and were also invited to join two parallel discussions on "Smallholder farmers and rural development" and on "Sustainable woody bioenergy".

During the WGCB Mr Franzjosef Schafhausen (Deputy Director-General at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety - BMU, Germany), Mr Vincent Pelikan (Agency for Renewable Resources – FNR, Germany) and Mr Stefan Majer (Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum – DBFZ, Germany) gave a short overview of the bioenergy experience in Germany.

Discussions on Activity Groups

Activity Group 1 - "Regional Forums/Workshops on Sustainable Modern Bioenergy"

ECOWAS and USA, co-leaders of the Activity Group 1, updated the Working Group on the results and achievements of its activities:

- ✓ On 19-21 March 2012 the "**ECOWAS Regional Bioenergy Forum**" was organized in Bamako, Mali, to initiate a regional dialogue and peer-to-peer learning to support ECOWAS Member States in developing regional and national bioenergy strategies, which

is intended to help meet energy needs and create a vibrant and sustainable modern bioenergy sector that promotes economic growth, rural development, and poverty alleviation.

The Forum contributed to building consensus among the various segments of society in ECOWAS member states, namely policy makers and officials from the Ministries of Energy, Agriculture and Environment, private sector individuals, civil society representatives, and the general public, to develop a framework to broaden and accelerate the development and deployment of sustainable modern bioenergy. The ECOWAS Regional Bioenergy Strategy Framework discussed and adopted by ECOWAS delegates in Bamako seeks to enable and promote domestic and foreign investments that help address energy poverty prevailing in the region both in rural and peri-urban populations, without compromising food security and environment. This Regional Bioenergy Strategy was officially adopted at the 11th meeting of ECOWAS Energy Ministers held in Accra, Republic of Ghana, on 31 October 2012.

- ✓ On 13–14 November 2012 the “**ECOWAS-GBEP Regional Biomass Resource Assessment**” workshop took place in Rome as a follow-up to the Bamako Forum where participants identified biomass resource assessment and mapping as an essential first step. The Rome workshop aimed at discussing these themes into details in order to further facilitate effective policy planning for a sustainable bioenergy sector in the region.

The workshop in Rome brought together around 80 representatives of the Ministries of Energy and Agriculture of the ECOWAS Member States, together with GBEP Partners and Observers, as well as regional and international organizations, academia, business and civil society representatives active in the region, in the field of bioenergy. It was highlighted that in some ECOWAS countries resource assessment and mapping was done 20-30 years ago and that harmonization and shifting to modern standards is very important. It was recognized the need for a stepwise approach to the issue of resource assessment, given the complexity of the topic and the specific conditions of the ECOWAS region.

- ✓ On 17-23 March 2013 the “**Bioenergy Week**” took place in Brasilia as a contribution to the Activity Groups 1 and 3 of the WGCB. It contributed to foster sustainable bioenergy deployment, particularly in developing countries where biomass use is prevalent. It consisted of sessions with specific themes of sustainable production and use of bioenergy, where effective policy frameworks were discussed, taking into account the GBEP work on sustainability indicators. The event aimed at fostering exchange of information, experience, skills and technologies to improve overall methods for using sustainable modern bioenergy to increase agricultural productivity, improve feedstock conversion, and enhance infrastructure logistics. The event was attended by more than 100 people from over 30 countries from Latin America, Africa and Asia.

During the meetings in Berlin, eight ECOWAS representatives participating in the WGCB discussions presented their country’s efforts in moving forward with developing a sustainable bioenergy sector. Representatives identified the need for effective policy and institutional frameworks in the region, particularly with a view to attracting needed investments in the sector. On this regard the continued cooperation with GBEP was recognized to be very important towards the sustainable development of bioenergy in the ECOWAS region.

The Working Group highly appreciated the important results of the above mentioned events. Furthermore, in light of the achievement of the Activity Group 1 objectives, the co-leaders

proposed its closure. A report of the AG1 will be developed in the next few months with a view to submit it for consideration at the next GBEP Steering Committee meeting.

Activity Group 2 - “Raising awareness, and sharing of data and experience on the implementation of the GBEP indicators”

Germany, co-leader of Activity Group 2, moderated a session that gave the opportunity to share very interesting experiences and lessons learned from the pilot testing of the GBEP indicators in some countries: Colombia, Ghana, Germany, Indonesia, Netherlands and USA. In the workshop it was stressed how indicators are useful tools to support research and to catalyze flow of data to government institutions, which will then be used to develop policies to guide the development of the sector. Revisions of some methodologies may be needed, but as such GBEP indicators and methodologies were considered an extremely useful tool to facilitate the sustainable development of bioenergy.

Ecofys on behalf of the Dutch government commissioned by NL Agency presented the first outcomes of an assignment to provide an overview of the lessons learned and recommendations for the further development of the indicators from five of the pilots (Colombia, Ghana, Germany, Indonesia, and the Netherlands).

A further session on “Future work evaluating the indicators of sustainability”, moderated by Ecofys on behalf of the Dutch government followed, with technical discussions on the following 4 indicators:

- Indicator 2 “Soil quality” – Environmental pillar;
- Indicator 6 “Water quality – Environmental pillar;
- Indicator 10 “Price and supply of a national food basket”- Social pillar; and
- Indicator 17 “Productivity” - Economic pillar.

Each of these indicators was introduced by a brief presentation reflecting the experiences in implementation at the national level. The discussions encompassed issues like the respective scope of application, the selection of approaches, data availability, dealing with of data-gaps and efforts due to application. The presentations and related intensive discussions gave a first compact overview on lessons learned, particularly with focus on practicality but also on the indicator’s use for policy making.

The Netherlands announced that the results of the session together with inputs from the available pilot reports on lessons learned from five of the pilot testing of the GBEP indicators will be compiled and presented in a report that will become available before the summer 2013. Once finalized, it will be posted on the GBEP website. In addition to these five pilots, the United States presented to Partners and Observers its multi-agency efforts on sustainability, including examples linked to the GBEP indicators.

The Working Group highly appreciated the very interesting exchange of experiences and lessons learned, and invited the Activity Group 2 to continue its work. Participants were invited to make best use of the *discussion forum* available on the GBEP website as a powerful tool for sharing data and experiences on the implementation of the indicators. Participants were also invited to provide the GBEP Secretariat with relevant documents related to the pilot testing of GBEP indicators in order to make best use of the recently developed *data platform* on the GBEP website, which is intended to be a useful repository of relevant documents for the activity group. Participants also discussed ways to make the data more accessible to the broader global clean energy community; therefore, the possibility of establishing

collaboration with the Clean Energy Solutions Center (<https://cleanenergysolutions.org/>) was raised.

Activity Group 3 - “Study Tour for capacity building and training”

Brazil, leader of Activity Group 3, updated the Working Group on the results of the “**Bioenergy Week**” that took place in Brasilia on 17-23 March 2013. The Bioenergy Week represented a collaborative effort by a number of GBEP partners and brought together resources and experts from Brazil, the United States of America, the Organization of American States, UN FAO, UNEP, and others. It consisted of short training sessions analyzing technical and public policy aspects of bioenergy development, in line with GBEP 24 indicators of sustainability. Bioenergy technology and knowhow were also shared through fieldtrips to biodiesel and bioethanol plants. The event was attended by more than 100 people from over 30 countries from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia.

The AG leader proposed to organize the “Bioenergy Week” in Africa, and to focus the discussion on specific sustainability themes like agro-ecological zoning, small-scale production, family farming, regulatory and institutional framework, and food security. Further to this proposal the representative of Mozambique offered to host it in Maputo in spring 2014.

The Working Group highly appreciated the important results of the first study tour held in Brasilia and invited the Activity Group 3 to further discuss the organization of the next one, also collecting inputs from African colleagues on the themes to be discussed.

New Activity Groups and Proposals

Activity Group 4 – “Towards sustainable modern wood energy development”

FAO, who developed a draft scope of work for this new Activity Group in cooperation with UNEP and UN Foundation, gave a brief overview of the complexity of the focus of the Activity Group 4, highlighting the proposal to discuss the wood energy development in two tracks:

- Track 1. Sustainable production and use of wood energy for household and productive local uses - primarily in developing countries;
- Track 2. Engaging GBEP as an interested and capable stakeholder with leaders in the large-scale use of wood energy.

The Working Group exchanged views on these relevant themes and established consensus on the importance of Track 1. However, more discussion was requested in order to better define the scope of work and budget requirements for this proposed Activity Group and to also better define linkages with the work of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. Furthermore, consensus was not reached on the proposed Track 2 and it was agreed that additional discussions are needed to better define the role that GBEP can play in this track so that the Partnership’s efforts are not misinterpreted in a way to convey unintentional support for the export of limited biomass resources from developing countries to the developed world.

Activity Group 5 – “The Global Renewable Energy Atlas – Bioenergy Component”

IRENA presented the revised scope of work of the proposed Activity Group as well as a demonstration of the internet-based platform that would serve as a repository of high quality resource maps from leading technical institutes worldwide, along with a framework model for presenting the GBEP sustainability indicators within the context of the technical information. The ambition for this platform is to become a repository for high quality renewable energy resource and mapping data and a catalyst to trigger sustainable planning and policy development.

The Working Group appreciated the revised proposal and agreed to establish the Activity Group to start working – mainly through an e-group and webinar discussions – to develop guidance on how to interpret and use maps in light of the GBEP indicators and also to incorporate a component of the efforts on building the capacity of developing countries / institutes to use mapping as a tool to support good policy development. It was agreed to use the GBEP logo for sustainability considerations as they related to the indicators and not to use the GBEP logo for the maps and data compiled and used from other sources. The Working Group further agreed to review the programme of work and the resources needed, after the guidance was developed, to further translate, if there was a need, the sustainability indicators into the maps.

The Working Group also agreed that GBEP will send a letter to IRENA to confirm the mutual cooperation in the development of the bioenergy component of the Global Renewable Energy Atlas.

Proposal on “Achieving sustainable bioenergy development and food security”

FAO informed the Working Group about the proposal for GBEP to undertake some work aimed at strengthening capacities in achieving sustainable bioenergy development and food security, with the view of balancing negative statements with concrete facts and experiences on the ground. Due to the limited time available for discussion, it was agreed to organize a workshop discussion to be held during the next GBEP meetings in November in order to present some of the work done by FAO and GBEP partners that contradict the extreme negative positions expressed with regard to bioenergy at some international meetings and in a few international publications.

Sustainable Energy For All (SEFA)

Stefan Mard (Novozymes) was invited to give a presentation on the UN “Sustainable Energy for All (SEFA)” initiative. The SEFA programme is focusing, inter alia, on “High impact opportunities” (HIOs) on 11 Action Areas, some of which are relevant for bioenergy, in particular the one on “Sustainable Bioenergy” to be led by FAO and Novozymes.

The Working Group appreciated the presentation and agreed to recommend to the Steering Committee to send a letter to the Co-Chairs of the SEFA initiative – UN Secretary General BAN Ki-moon and World Bank President Kim – in order to express support by the Partnership for the SEFA initiative and its three aspirational goals¹ and to important role that sustainable bioenergy must play not only in bringing universal access to modern energy services, but also in transitioning countries away from the unsustainable use of traditional biomass for cooking and heating.

Communication Strategy

The Working Group was informed that the GBEP Communication Strategy paper has been finalized in light of inputs received since last GBEP meetings and is now available on the GBEP website.

¹ SEFA aspirational goals to be achieved by 2030:

- Ensure universal access to modern energy services;
- Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency;
- Double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

Conclusions and next steps

- ✓ ***Closure of Activity Group 1 was proposed.*** A final report will be developed to facilitate knowledge sharing of the capacity building work done. It will be submitted to the next GBEP SC meeting for consideration, following the proposed timetable below:
 - By 19 July 2013 a draft outline of the report will be circulated by AG 1 co-leaders for inputs by 2 August 2013;
 - By 1 October 2013 a draft report will be circulated for comments by 31 October 2013.
 - The final report of the AG1, possibly available in three languages (English, French and Portuguese) will be submitted for consideration to the 16th Steering Committee meeting.
- ✓ ***E-group discussions of Activity Groups 2 and 3 to continue.***
- ✓ ***E-group of the proposed Activity Groups 4 to start discussing track 1*** (Sustainable production and use of wood energy for household and productive uses - primarily in developing countries) and to continue discussing its scope of work and budget requirements in details.
- ✓ ***Establishment of Activity Group 5 to be recommended to the Steering Committee.*** E-group and webinar discussions to continue, with a view to develop a guidance on the use of GBEP sustainability indicators when using and interpreting maps and resource assessments.
- ✓ ***Workshop to be organized on “Achieving sustainable bioenergy development and food security” during next GBEP meetings.***
- ✓ ***Next GBEP regular meetings, including the 5th WGCB, will be held during the last week of November 2013 (25-29 November 2013) in Rome, FAO Headquarters.*** The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.
- ✓ ***Nomination of new Co-chairs of the WGCB.*** Due to new assignments for both co-chairs of the WGCB, the GBEP Secretariat will engage in informal consultations with Partners and Observers in order to identify successors to the leadership of the WGCB.