

## **5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)**

*FAO Headquarters, King Faisal Room*

Rome, 11-13 December 2013

### **Co-Chair Conclusions**

The GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB) held its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting on 11-13 December 2013 in Rome, FAO Headquarters.

Brazil, Cambodia, China, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mozambique, Netherlands, Paraguay, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, Vietnam, ECOWAS, European Commission, FAO, ICRAF, IEA, IRENA, OAS, Pangea, UNEP and UN SEFA participated in the meeting as Partners and Observers.

The meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB) was preceded by the *workshop “Achieving sustainable bioenergy development and food security”*, held on 11 December 2013.

During this workshop, further to a FAO update on the recent decision on “Biofuels and Food Security” by the Committee on Food Security (CFS), the following activities and initiatives were presented:

- The Netherlands (NL Agency) presented a *recent report “Combining bioenergy production and food security”* that contributes to show in which way producing and using biomass for energy does not compete with food security, but contributes to it. The effect of bioenergy production on food security is sometimes positive (e.g. on food access through producer prices and household income), sometimes negative (on food availability through food production, food trade or food access through consumer prices) and sometimes goes either way (on utilisation and stability dimensions through macro-economic variables). As a result, generic claims stating that bioenergy production is a risk to food security or benefits food security often reflect a partial view on this issue.
- FAO/BEFS presented the *BEFS Rapid Appraisal (BEFS RA) project*. The BEFS RA consists of a set of easily applicable methodologies and user-friendly tools which allow countries to get an initial indication of their sustainable bioenergy potential and of the associated opportunities, risks and trade-offs. The BEFS RA covers the whole biofuel supply chain from feedstock production to processing plant gate. It considers all bioenergy options including solid, liquid and gaseous biofuels and covers the following energy end-uses: heating and cooking, rural electrification and transport. Feedstock options investigated encompass all agricultural products including crops and residues, forestry and residues and livestock residues. The BEFS RA was first pilot tested in Malawi and will be pilot tested in the Philippines in January 2014. The BEFS Rapid Appraisal will be publicly available on the FAO website in April 2014.
- FAO/GBEP presented the main outcomes of the *pilot testing of the GBEP sustainability indicator 10 (“price and supply of a national food basket”) in Colombia and Indonesia*. A preliminary indication (Tier I) of effects in food security was presented focusing on the collection and analysis of price/supply data for palm oil and other food and non-food basket crops. Regarding Indonesia, the methodological approach and preliminary results for the simplest approach of Tier II (causal descriptive assessment), as an extension of the preliminary analysis based on historical data for the case of crude palm oil (CPO)-based biodiesel demand in Indonesia were presented; this was followed by the Tier II Simulation

approach description. The simulation approach was used to assess the effect of domestic demand of CPO for biodiesel on the supply and price of CPO and competing crops and land uses in Indonesia. Recommendations for policy based on the effect of current feedstock supply strategies were highlighted and actions to enhance the sustainability of the system were proposed. The analysis of Tier III assessed the quantitative effect of current biodiesel production in Indonesia on price and availability of food basket items. In addition, a scenario based on the newly enacted Indonesian energy policy (which mandates a 25% share of diesel demand to be fulfilled by biodiesel by 2025) showed the possible effects of decreased exports of CPO for food purposes and their potential effects on the international price of vegetable oils.

- FAO presented the “*Analytical framework to assess the sustainability and replicability of existing IFES (Integrated Food and Energy Systems)*”, developed with the support of the Government of The Netherlands in 2012-2013. The analytical framework is made of three components:
  - Analyzing the socio-cultural context: Understanding the farmers’ perspective through Rapid Rural Appraisal methodologies;
  - Assessing sustainability: Strengthening the evidence base through an indicator-based framework;
  - Assessing replicability: Analyzing the enabling environment through a comprehensive checklist.
 FAO has developed criteria and indicators for the assessment of the sustainability and replicability of IFES projects. Many of the sustainability indicators are, as expected, shared with the GBEP work on the same matter.

### **Opening of the WGCB**

The Working Group welcomed the co-chairmanship of ECREEE/ECOWAS and Argentina for the next two years, nominated in accordance with the WGCB scope and programme of work. The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting was chaired by ECREEE/ECOWAS. Strong appreciation to the former co-chairmanship of The Netherlands and USA was expressed.

### **Discussions on Activity Groups**

#### **Activity Group 1 - “Regional Forums/Workshops on Sustainable Modern Bioenergy”**

ECOWAS, co-leader of the Activity Group 1 together with USA, presented the draft final report of this Activity Group highlighting main results and achievements of its activities:

- ✓ March 2012 - “***ECOWAS Regional Bioenergy Forum***” (Bamako, Mali) aimed at initiating a regional dialogue and peer-to-peer learning to support ECOWAS Member States in developing regional and national bioenergy strategies. The ECOWAS Regional Bioenergy Strategy Framework discussed and agreed by ECOWAS delegates in Bamako was officially adopted at the 11th meeting of ECOWAS Energy Ministers held in Accra, Republic of Ghana, on 31 October 2012.
- ✓ November 2012 - “***ECOWAS-GBEP Regional Biomass Resource Assessment***” (Rome, Italy) aimed at discussing biomass resource assessment and mapping as an essential first step to further facilitate effective policy planning for a sustainable bioenergy sector in the region.
- ✓ March 2013 - “***Bioenergy Week***” (Brasilia, Brazil) 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.

- ✓ May 2013 – “***Closing meeting of the Activity Group 1***” (Berlin, Germany) aimed at wrapping up on the contribution of the Activity Group 1 to the sustainable bioenergy development in the ECOWAS region. The need for effective policy and institutional frameworks in the region, particularly with a view to attracting needed investments in the sector, was highlighted together with the recognition of the importance of a continued cooperation with GBEP.

Two additional activities were also presented as a further support to the GBEP work in West Africa:

- ✓ ***Piloting of GBEP sustainability indicators in Ghana*** - held in 2012 with the support of the Government of the Netherlands - aimed at enhancing the capacity of the country to use GBEP indicators as a tool for assessing the sustainability of its bioenergy sector and/or developing sustainable bioenergy policies, as well as to learn lessons on how to apply the indicators and enhance their practicality.
- ✓ November 2013 – “***Workshop on piloting of GBEP Sustainability Indicators***” aimed at sharing the results of the pilot study in Ghana with representatives of the ECOWAS member states, with a view to stress the usefulness in assessing the sustainability of bioenergy development in various regions.

It was concluded that the GBEP interventions in the ECOWAS region has raised the awareness of the potentials of sustainable bioenergy in the region, however more work needs to be done particularly with regard to developing policy, regulatory, and business frameworks that promote the transition away from the unsustainable use of traditional biomass towards more sustainable modern bioenergy.

The Working Group highly appreciated the important results of the above mentioned activities and their contribution to the sustainable development of bioenergy in the ECOWAS region. The draft final report of the AG1 was circulated for comments by 31 December 2013, in order to finalize it and translate it into French and Portuguese. It will be posted on the GBEP website in the three languages.

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

Germany and Indonesia, co-leaders of Activity Group 2, moderated a session that gave the opportunity to share very interesting experiences and lessons learned from the implementation of the GBEP indicators in Germany, Ghana and Jamaica. In addition, the Dutch government presented the report, commissioned to Ecofys, that provides an overview of the initial lessons learned and recommendations for the development of the GBEP indicators from five pilot studies (Colombia, Ghana, Germany, Indonesia and the Netherlands). Furthermore, a very interesting presentation on the bioenergy sector in China and on the planning to test the GBEP sustainability indicators on biogas plants in the Hebei provinces was also delivered.

New plans of implementation of GBEP sustainability indicators were announced by Japan (piloting at the national level in addition to the study already developed in 2011 on the Kyoto province), as well as by Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan with desk studies.

The Working Group highly appreciated the very interesting exchange of experiences and lessons learned, and invited the Activity Group 2 to continue its work. The Working Group mentioned the need to further discuss the possibility to develop a GBEP note to address the

recommendations identified from the various piloting and enhance the practicality of the GBEP indicators as a tool for policy making. Participants were also called upon 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. Moderators of the discussion forum will be identified and communicated to the GBEP members.

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

Brazil, leader of Activity Group 3, updated the Working Group on the draft proposal of the second “Bioenergy Week” to be held in Mozambique, Maputo, in spring 2014. Scientists and officials from all over the world will be invited to the Bioenergy Week, including also representatives of the private sector in particular from Africa. This will allow to have the opportunity to learn from positive experiences in the sustainable production and use of bioenergy that could guide the design and implementation of bioenergy policies in the interested countries.

After a comprehensive discussion the Working Group agreed to structure the agenda of the Maputo event around three main themes: food security, family farming integration and wood energy. Speakers of these three thematic sessions will be invited to make explicit cross cutting references to the related GBEP sustainability indicators. In addition an important reference to regulatory framework will be foreseen, as well as the organization of break-out-group sessions with business sector and stakeholders to improve mutual cooperation towards a more sustainable production and use of bioenergy.

Few speakers on the three thematic sessions were already identified during the Working Group discussion, however more inputs from Partners and Observers have been kindly requested by 15 January 2014 in order to identify additional speakers (indicating under which thematic focus these should be included), relevant experts to be invited, as well as private sector representatives to be involved in the break-out-group sessions.

The Working Group highly appreciated the preparatory work of this important event and the cooperative spirit around its organization. In particular, Brazil and Italy expressed their willingness to contribute to fund this event, and other Partners and Observers were invited to do the same.

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

FAO and UNEP, who developed the revised draft scope of work for this new Activity Group in cooperation with UN Foundation/Global Alliance on Clean Cookstoves, gave a brief overview of the revised proposal to work on sustainable production and use of wood energy for household energy access and productive local uses, primarily in developing countries.

A stepwise approach, with the following initial activities, was proposed:

- ✓ Stock taking paper regarding successful initiatives on solid biomass development in developing countries. This paper will be developed subject to the availability of funding and also on the basis of data and best practices provided by Partners and Observers.
- ✓ Webinar to present the stock taking paper and exchange lessons learned.
- ✓ Capacity building workshop on lessons learned on wood energy development. On this it was agreed to dedicate a full session of the next GBEP Bioenergy Week (Maputo, Mozambique) to this theme.

The Working Group exchanged views on this relevant theme, appreciated the revised proposal and stepwise approach, and agreed to establish this Activity Group 4. The co-leaders will inform Partners and Observers on the next steps towards the development of the stock taking paper.

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

IRENA, leader of Activity Group 5, presented the 2014 work plan developed in cooperation with members of the related e-group.

The following organization of work was proposed for the year 2014:

#### ***Stream 1: development of a repository of resource maps***

- Task 1: identifying information sources.
- Task 2: review of the proposed information sources and establishment of the corresponding partnerships.
- Task 3: creating maps and reviewing content

#### ***Stream 2: simplified model for evaluating the technical information on the basis of the GBEP sustainability indicators***

- Task 4: displaying information on the GBEP sustainability indicators
- Task 5: guidance to the end-users on how to interpret and use maps in light of the GBEP sustainability indicator

#### ***Stream 3: communication and dissemination***

- Task 6: Global Atlas web portal

The Working Group exchanged views on the proposed work plan and decided to focus on Streams 2 and 3. As such Stream 1, in light of its specific mapping content, will be developed by IRENA independently from GBEP.

Further discussions will follow within the e-group on Stream 2 and 3 in view of funding opportunities needed to organize a workshop to discuss the possible development of a guidance/methodological framework on how to interpret and use maps in light of the GBEP sustainability indicators. A revised work plan will be circulated to reflect these updates.

The Working Group also noticed that a stronger capacity building component should be included in this Activity Group.

### **Proposal on “Achieving sustainable bioenergy development and food security”**

FAO, as a follow up to a previous brief discussion during the Berlin meetings (May 2013) and the workshop on food security and bioenergy development that took place in Rome (11 December 2013), shared with the Working Group 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.

The Working Group highly appreciated the very interesting proposal also in light of the important exchange of experiences and lessons learned that took place during the workshop on food security and bioenergy development. The Working Group recognized the key relevance of this theme and agreed to focus on this a full session of the next Bioenergy Week. The Working Group also agreed to keep this discussion alive for future further considerations.

### **Sustainable Energy For All (SEFA)**

Gerard Ostheimer, UN SEFA bioenergy focal point, was invited to give a presentation on the recent developments in the programme of work of the UN “Sustainable Energy for All (SEFA)” initiative. The SEFA programme is focusing, inter alia, on several “High impact opportunities” (HIOs), some of which are relevant for bioenergy, in particular the one on “Sustainable Bioenergy”.

The Working Group appreciated the presentation and confirmed its support to the SEFA initiative and its three aspirational goals<sup>1</sup> 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.

### **Conclusions and next steps**

- ✓ ***Activity Group 1 – Draft of the final report circulated for comments by 31 December 2013.*** Once finalized it will be translated into two languages (French and Portuguese) and posted on the GBEP website.
- ✓ ***Activity Groups 2 to continue its work.*** In particular, with a view to activate the *discussion forum* on the implementation of the GBEP sustainability indicators, available on the GBEP website, the AG2 co-leaders will identify and communicate the moderators of the three pillar related discussions shortly.
- ✓ ***Activity Group 3 - Inputs from Partners and Observers on the agenda of the Bioenergy Week (Maputo, May 2014) kindly requested by 15 January 2014.*** Specific suggestions on speakers (indicating under which thematic focus these should be included), relevant experts to be invited, as well as private sector representatives to be involved in the break-out-group sessions are welcome.
- ✓ ***Activity Groups 4 to be recommended to the Steering Committee and to start working on the stepwise programme of work.*** Co-leaders, with the support of the GBEP Secretariat, will keep in touch with Partners and Observers to collect relevant initiatives and activities useful for the stock taking paper. A full session of the next GBEP Bioenergy Week (Maputo, Mozambique) will be focused to this theme.
- ✓ ***Activity Group 5 to continue discussion on Stream 2 and 3.*** The AG leader will discuss this further within the e-group and circulate a revised work plan to reflect updates related to available funding to organize a workshop. This workshop will be aimed to discuss the possible development of a guidance/methodological framework on how to interpret and use maps in light of the GBEP sustainability indicators.
- ✓ ***GBEP focus on “Achieving sustainable bioenergy development and food security”.*** A full session of the next GBEP Bioenergy Week (Maputo, Mozambique) will be focused to this theme.
- ✓ ***The 6<sup>th</sup> WGCB will be held back-to-back to the 17<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting (Rome, FAO Headquarters, November/December 2014)*** unless otherwise requested by Partners and Observers. The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.