**GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building**

**for Sustainable Bioenergy**

**Activity Group 3**

***Study Tour for capacity building and training***

*Version 19 December 2013*

**Background**

In the context of the Working Group on Capacity Building, the Activity Group on "Study tour for capacity building and training", led by Brazil, was established in November 2011. The main objective is to help fostering sustainable biomass and biofuels deployment, particularly in developing countries where biomass use is prevalent. It consists of short courses with specific themes of sustainable production and use of bioenergy where effective policy frameworks may be discussed, taking into account the 24 indicators approved by GBEP. The courses aim at fostering exchange of information, skills and technologies through bilateral and multilateral collaboration. Practical information on bioenergy technology and know-how are also encouraged through field visits.

***The first Bioenergy Week was held in Brasilia (Brazil) last March 2013*** and it consisted in short training courses analyzing technical and public policy aspects of bioenergy development, in line with GBEP 24 indicators of sustainability. This event was kindly hosted by the Government of Brazil in the premises of EMBRAPA Agroenergy (Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation), also supported by the Government of the United States of America and the Organization of American States (OAS).

Scientists and officials from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Southeast Asia and Europe had 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 their countries. They were invited to facilitate information sharing to improve overall agricultural productivity, yield, and infrastructure logistics such that more feedstock is available for food, feed, fibre, and fuel.  Through exchange of technical information, models, and tools for identifying, measuring and reducing costs, and raising efficiency, countries may identify opportunities for improving feedstock productivity and logistics and areas for continued technical support.

The workshop contributed to train developing country officials and stakeholders on ways to improve agricultural productivity and yield, to enhance feedstock logistics, and to increase the use of modern conversion technologies.

**2014 Bioenergy Week - Mozambique**

GBEP is keen to organize ***the second “Bioenergy Week” in Africa***, Mozambique, in spring 2014, and to focus the discussion on specific sustainability themes that are of key interest for Africa like agro-ecological zoning, small-scale production, family farming, regulatory and institutional framework, and food security.

Initial ideas for the structure of the second Bioenergy Week are shown below:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday**  **5 May 2014** | **Tuesday**  **6 May 2014** | **Wednesday**  **7 May 2014** | **Thursday**  **8 May 2014** | **Friday**  **9 May 2014** |
| **OPENING**  Welcome  Speeches  **\*\*\***  Regional overviews  Africa  Americas  Asia Europe | **FOOD SECURITY AND BIOENERGY**  **\*\*\***  Speakers will be invited to make cross cutting references to sustainability indicators and policy related examples | **SUSTAINABLE MODERN WOOD ENERGY DEVELOPMENT**  **\*\*\***      Speakers will be invited to make cross cutting references to sustainability indicators and policy related examples | **Break out groups with business sector and international banks/funds**  (structure and themes to be defined) | **CONCLUSIONS**  1.Policy lessons for the future  2.Lessons from examples food security, family farming integration and wood energy  3.Cooperation opportunities |
| Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch |
| **Regulatory frameworks for bioenergy**  **\*\*\***    State of the art and lessons learned | **FAMILY FARMERS INTEGRATION IN THE BIOENERGY VALUE CHAIN**  **\*\*\***  Speakers will be invited to make cross cutting references to sustainability indicators and policy related examples | **Break out groups with business sector and international banks/funds**  (structure and themes to be defined)  **\*\*\***   * Entrepreneurship * Incubators * Finance to smallholders * Business cases relevant for sustainability * Responsible Agriculture Investments (RAI) | **Break out groups with business sector and international banks/funds**  (structure and themes to be defined) |  |

Scientists and officials from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Southeast Asia and Europe 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. Furthermore there will be the opportunity to continue a dialogue with private sector and stakeholders on ways to improve mutual cooperation towards a more sustainable production and use of bioenergy.