

GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy

Activity Group 3

Study Tour for capacity building and training

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) in 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.

The second Bioenergy Week was held in Maputo (Mozambique) in May 2014. The event was hosted by the Government of Mozambique and organized by the GBEP Secretariat with the support of the Governments of Brazil and Italy, as well as of APLA Brazil and Vale S.A. The event gathered around 120 participants from the Americas, Africa, Southeast Asia and Europe among scientists and government officials, including also representatives of the private sector, in particular from Africa, to discuss on specific sustainability themes that are of

key interest for Africa like regulatory and policy frameworks for bioenergy, food security and bioenergy, family farmers integration in the bioenergy value chain, and sustainable modern biomass energy development.

GBEP is exploring opportunities to organize the third Bioenergy Week in Asia in Spring 2015.

Scientists and officials from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Southeast Asia and Europe will be invited to the third Bioenergy Week, including also representatives of the private sector in particular from Asia. 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.