

14th Meeting of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability

FAO Headquarters, Lebanon Room D-209 Bis

Rome, 1 December 2016

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The Task Force on Sustainability (TFS) was reopened in May 2015 with a new scope of work agreed by the GBEP Partners. The focus of the reopened Task Force is to enhance the practicality of the GBEP Sustainability Indicators for Bioenergy (GSI) by producing an implementation guide to complement the “Global Bioenergy Partnership Sustainability Indicators for Bioenergy” report.

The work of the TFS is supported by the scope of work of Activity Group 2 (AG2) under the Working Group on Capacity Building (WGCB); The AG2 has compiled lessons learnt from implementation of the indicators in country (and has made these available on the GBEP website). These will inform the development of the Implementation Guide by the TFS.

Under the scope of work of the TFS, priority has been given to discussing cross-cutting issues that affect the implementation of many or all indicators. Three categories of cross-cutting issues have been identified so far: the integration of definitions and methodologies; how best to ensure the effective implementation of the indicators; and how to enhance the practicality of the indicators.

The 13th Meeting of the TFS, held in Rome in November 2015, presented an opportunity to discuss the new scope of work of the TFS and to begin conversations on the various issues of implementation of the GSIs, in particular on the cross-cutting issues. The definitions of modern bioenergy were considered and discussed. A compilation of these definitions is to be included in the Implementation Guide. Discussions were also held on the attribution of impacts to bioenergy and best practices for the measurement of each indicator and work is still ongoing to determine guidelines for these.

Expected discussions of the 14th Meeting of the TFS

During the 14th Meeting of the TFS, the following priorities are expected to be discussed:

- The cross-cutting issues that were highlighted by countries where the GSIs have been implemented will continue to be discussed. To assist in the discourse, a first draft of the *Attribution Paper*, kindly contributed by Germany, will be presented at the meeting. This report builds on the templates compiled by the AG2 on lessons learned from the implementation in eight countries.
- Technical discussions will start on each of the indicators at sub-group level to identify specific implementation issues. To assist with tackling these issues related to single indicators, the *Economic, Environmental and Social sub-groups* of the TFS are to be reopened. The following countries have kindly expressed their willingness to lead these

sub-groups: Germany and UNEP (Environmental); FAO and Argentina (Social); and Italy and Japan (Economic).

- As agreed at the 13th Meeting of the TFS, it is important to understand the GSIs in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlight the linkages between them and also determine how they may be mutually reinforcing. A ***technical paper on the relation between SDGs and GSIs*** will therefore also be presented at the meeting, initiating discussions on this topic. This paper has been generously contributed by Germany.

Roadmap

- The Attribution Paper will be an ongoing activity to be developed and revised over the long term, given its importance for informing the Implementation Guide. The content of both documents will be discussed at TFS meetings to be held in November 2017 (back-to-back with regular GBEP meetings) and Spring 2018, both to be kindly hosted by Germany.
- The work of the three reopened sub-groups will also be ongoing during this period to develop suggestions and guidance for implementation of specific indicators under each pillar.
- The SDG and GSI paper, to be completed in the near term, will also contribute to the development of the other strands of work mentioned above, and therefore the Implementation Guide.