

16th meeting of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability
FAO Headquarters, German Room C-229-C269
Rome, 28-29 November 2018

Co-Chairs Conclusions

The GBEP Task Force on Sustainability (TFS) held its 16th meeting on 28-29 November 2018 at FAO Headquarters in Rome.

Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Paraguay, Philippines, Spain, United States of America, ECREEE/ECOWAS, EUBIA, FAO, IRENA, SEforAll/WBCSD and UN Environment participated in the meeting as Partners and Observers.

Before beginning the meeting, a minute of silence was observed for our friend and colleague Sven-Olov Ericson from Sweden who sadly passed away earlier in 2018. He was remembered for his calm, wise ways and his excellent leadership of the TFS during his time as Co-chair.

Mr. Takashi Hayashi (Japan), Ms. Annalisa Zezza (Italy) and Mr. Ahmed Abdelati Ahmed (Egypt), the Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Sustainability, welcomed participants and officially adopted the meeting's [agenda](#).

Implementation Guide on the use of the GSIs – Status of development

[Constance Miller](#) (GBEP Secretariat, FAO) presented the final draft of the 'Stepwise Approach' to the measurement of the GBEP indicators (GSI), which has been developed to be included in the Implementation Guide. The version presented during the meeting was based on FAO experiences of GSI measurement and included comments and inputs from Partners and Observers. There were no initial inputs on this document during the meeting but any final comments on this document are welcomed from Partners and Observers by 18 January 2019.

Further to the Stepwise Approach, Ms Miller presented the 'flowchart', which will represent an annex to the Stepwise Approach. It provides information on the sequencing of indicator measurement and guidance on how to ensure data consistency. Two approaches were presented at the meetings, based on the different styles of measurement taken by FAO (in Colombia, Indonesia, Paraguay and Viet Nam) and Germany (during national implementation). It was decided that both of these approaches provide relevant information on how to structure indicator measurement, and both will be included in the Implementation Guide as possible approaches. Further approaches were welcomed from other Partners and Observers who have/will have carried out implementation of the GSI in their own countries.

Ms Miller also presented an information document that will form a section of the Implementation Guide providing guidance on the use of 'Proxies and Best Practice'. This was developed by GBEP Secretariat together with the kind support of IRENA. Inputs received during the meetings on relevant studies to include in this document will be incorporated and any final comments are welcomed from Partners and Observers by 18 January 2019.

[Horst Fehrenbach](#) (IFEU, Germany) presented the Technical Report on Attribution of impacts to bioenergy production and use. A final version of this report (to be updated with minor edits

based on inputs received during the webinar held in October 2018 and during the meeting) will be circulated to Partners and Observers by 10 December 2018 for their feedback. Inputs are requested by 18 January 2019 so that the document can be finalised by the end of February 2019. It was agreed that the Attribution report will be a stand-alone report with texts to be copied into the relevant indicator sections of the Implementation Guide.

Status of the discussion under the sub-groups of the Task Force on Sustainability

The work conducted under the three (Environmental, [Social](#) and [Economic](#)) sub-groups of the TFS during 2018 was presented and remaining guidance to be provided was discussed. A provisional timeline for all three sub-groups was then agreed by Partners and Observers.

For the Economic and Social sub-groups: any final inputs on the 2018 reports are requested from Partners and Observers by 18 January 2019 in order to finalise the text for the Implementation Guide by the end of February 2019.

For the Environmental sub-group: the 2018 report with updates and final adjustments will be circulated by mid-January 2019 at the latest; virtual meetings will be held during the end of January to resolve any outstanding issues with a view to finalize the text for the Implementation Guide by the end of February 2019.

Discussion on the way forward towards finalization of the Implementation Guide and opportunities for dissemination

It was agreed that all components of the Implementation Guide will be finished by the end of February 2019 so that the Implementation Guide itself can be finalised by the end of April 2019. It was agreed that the Implementation Guide will be an electronic document to be uploaded on the GBEP website and be kept as an alive document for further updates by the TFS, when appropriate.

It was agreed that dissemination activities should be a priority once the Guide has been concluded. Good dissemination events could be the GBEP side event at the EUBCE in Lisbon, 27-30 May 2019, the IEA Bioenergy event in Utrecht, 23 May 2019, as well as other international events (e.g. the Asian Clean Energy Forum, 17-21 June 2019, Manila; and the BIO World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology, 8-11 July 2019, Des Moines, Iowa).

To facilitate the dissemination of the report it was agreed that the GBEP Secretariat will prepare and print a two-page leaflet and Germany kindly agreed to provide support to develop and print a ‘Summary for Policy Makers’ of the Implementation Guide that can be presented during these events.

Discussion on bioenergy and the broader bioeconomy

[Constance Miller](#) (GBEP Secretariat, FAO) presented the ‘non-paper’ on bioenergy within the broader bioeconomy and the potential role of GBEP in this context, which was prepared by the GBEP Secretariat on request of a few Partners.

Many partners agreed that bioenergy is sometimes neglected in bioeconomy discussions and that GBEP could play a vital role in highlighting bioenergy in bioeconomy fora. Furthermore, providing information on the process of the elaboration and agreement of the GSI could be very valuable in the broader bioeconomy context, as conversations on monitoring the sustainability

of the bioeconomy develop. The possibility to hold a session dedicated to the bioeconomy at the Bioenergy Week 2019 was also discussed.

As such, it was decided to create an electronic discussion group on this topic in order to exchange views and opportunities in view of further discussions to be held at the November 2019 GBEP meetings. Partners and Observers are kindly asked to express their willingness to join this group by 18 January 2019.

Conclusions and next steps

Implementation Guide

- ***Technical Report on Attribution*** – A final version of this report (to be updated with minor edits) will be circulated to Partners and Observers by 10 December 2018 for their feedback. Inputs in the revised version are requested by 18 January 2019 so that the document can be finalised by the end of February 2019. The Attribution report will be a stand-alone electronic report with texts to be copied into the relevant indicator sections of the Implementation Guide.
- ***Stepwise Approach*** – any final comments are welcomed by 18 January 2019.
- ***Proxies and best practices*** – final comments on this document, and further relevant references, are requested from Partners and Observers by 18 January 2019.
- ***Economic and social sub-groups of TFS*** – All inputs from Partners and Observers on the 2018 sub-group reports are welcomed by 18 January 2019 so that the Sub-group texts can be finalised for inclusion in the Implementation Guide by the end of February 2019.
- ***Environmental sub-group of TFS*** – The revised draft of the sub-group will be circulated to Partners and Observers by Mid-January 2019 at the latest so that final teleconferences can be held during late January 2019 to resolve any remaining issues. The sub-group text will be finalised for inclusion in the Implementation Guide by end of February 2019.
- ***Finalisation and dissemination of the Implementation Guide*** –
 - End of April 2019 – the Implementation Guide will be finalised and uploaded on the GBEP website, along with a two-page leaflet.
 - May 2019 onwards – dissemination of the Implementation Guide at various international events, including: GBEP side events (e.g. Lisbon, May 2019), events by Partners (e.g. Utrecht, May 2019) and the 2019 Bioenergy Week.
 - A ‘Summary for Policy Makers’ will be developed and printed to facilitate dissemination of the Implementation Guide.

Bioenergy and the broader bioeconomy

- An ***electronic discussion group*** on this topic will be established in order to exchange views and opportunities in view of further discussions to be held at the November 2019 GBEP meetings. Partners and Observers are kindly asked to express their willingness to join this group by 18 January 2019.