

21st Meeting of the GBEP Steering Committee

FAO Headquarters, German Room C-229-C269

Rome, 29 November 2018

Co-Chairs Summary

The GBEP Steering Committee held its 21st meeting on 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, FAO, IRENA, WBCSD and UN Environment participated in the meeting as Partners and Observers.

Italy and Brazil co-chaired the meeting. Mr. Giovanni Brunelli, Director of the Division of Sustainable Development at the Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea, represented Italy on behalf of Francesco La Camera (GBEP Chair), while Amb. Fernando Abreu, Permanent Representative to FAO, IFAD and WFP, represented Brazil on behalf of Amb. João Genésio de Almeida Filho (GBEP Co-Chair).

Welcome speech

Mr. Alexander Jones, Director of Climate and Environment Division of FAO gave a welcome speech. In his speech, he referred to the recent reports on climate change, such as IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C and the NOAA State of the Climate Report. It is clear that every day it becomes more and more challenging to achieve the 1.5°C target under the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, these climate commitments must be upheld in parallel with efforts towards the achievement of the SDGs. Bioenergy can represent a tool for concurrently tackling these global issues. Mr. Jones expressed FAO's commitment to GBEP and sustainable bioenergy development, and praised the success of the GBEP meetings and activities this year. He noted that bioenergy is a complicated issue and that GBEP is a unique forum for promoting discussion and decisions. The success of GBEP derives from the collective will of its Partners and Observers, and Mr. Jones thanked them for their continued support.

Mr. Giovanni Brunelli and Amb. Fernando Abreu thanked Partners and Observers for their continued work and officially adopted the meeting's agenda.

GBEP Chairmanship and Membership

The Steering Committee discussed and agreed on the extension of the current co-chairmanship of Italy and Brazil to the next biennium (2019-2020).

The Steering Committee welcomed AFREC (African Energy Commission of the African Union) as new Partner of GBEP since the signature of the GBEP Terms of Reference at the beginning of this year.

GBEP Programme of Work

Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)

Mr. Bah Saho (ECREEE/ECOWAS), Co-chair of WGCB along with Mr. Miguel Almada (Argentina), informed the Steering Committee of the results of the 10th meeting, held on 27-28 November 2018.

During **Activity Group 2**, experiences of the measurement of the GBEP Sustainability Indicators in Viet Nam, Paraguay, Ethiopia, Kenya and Egypt, along with capacity development activities in Togo and Ghana, and experience of the FORBIO project were presented and discussed. It will continue this work in the future to support the TFS in the development of the Implementation Guide as new experiences become available from countries where implementation of the GBEP indicators is ongoing or planned.

Activity Group 3 praised the success of the 2018 Bioenergy Week held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was announced that the 2019 Bioenergy Week will be hosted by the Philippines at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila in June 2019 (week of 24-28 June) focused on themes of direct interest to Asia (exact date and venue to be confirmed in due time). The Philippines expressed their commitment to supporting the local costs of the event but ask for Partners and Observers to consider supporting some of the international costs. The GBEP Secretariat requests inputs from Partners and Observers by 18 January 2019 on potential themes and speakers to be invited to the Bioenergy Week in the Philippines, so that a draft agenda can be developed and circulated.

The activities of **Activity Group 4** during 2018 were presented: a session on “Exchange of experiences and opportunities on wood energy” at the 2018 Bioenergy Week in Argentina; and a Discussion Forum at the Global Landscape Forum held in Bonn, 1-2 December 2018, entitled “Contribution of a sustainable wood energy production approach to Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)”. For 2019, the group proposes a dedicated session at the Bioenergy Week 2019 in the Philippines. Furthermore, AG4 will explore interest in the new thematic area of *woody biomass for forest landscape restoration and sustainable livelihoods*. It was proposed that the AG4 Leader would produce a short note to facilitate initial discussions on this new focus. To be part of the discussions around this new theme, Partners and Observers are requested to express their interest to join the AG4 by 18 January 2019.

The **Activity Group 7** was officially established in November 2017. Since then, a stocktaking paper has been initiated by the GBEP Secretariat to guide the activities of the group. A progress report on this stocktaking paper was given where results from the regional analysis in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean were presented. A final draft of this paper will be prepared for the 11th Meeting of the WGCB in November 2019 including a regional analysis in Asia. E-learning webinars are being developed on the BiogasDoneRight® model in collaboration with *Conorzio Italiano Biogas* (CIB), the *Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria* (INTA) and Michigan State University. The translation of the webinar material will be finalised by February 2019, and webinars will be held in both Spanish and English to cover different geographical regions.

The Scope of Work of **Activity Group 8 on Advanced Liquid Biofuels** was discussed, updated and agreed upon, and the group was formally established under the leadership of the U.S.A. Expression of interest from Partners and Observers to join AG8 will be requested by 18 January 2019.

The Steering Committee endorsed the proposed next steps under the WGCB.

Task Force on Sustainability (TFS)

Mr. Takashi Hayashi (Japan), co-chair of the TFS along with Ms. Annalisa Zezza (Italy) and Mr. Ahmed Abdelati Ahmed (Egypt), informed the Steering Committee on the proceedings and conclusions of the 16th TFS meeting, held on 28-29 November 2018.

The 16th TFS Meeting primarily focused on the *timeline for the finalisation and subsequent dissemination of the Implementation Guide* for the GSI. It was decided that the Implementation Guide will be finalised by the end of April 2019, and dissemination activities

will occur from May 2019 onwards. Good opportunities for dissemination 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).

It was agreed that the Implementation Guide would 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. To facilitate the dissemination of the report, it was agreed that the GBEP Secretariat would 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.

The finalisation of the Implementation Guide by April 2019 involves the conclusion of a number of related documents:

A draft of a ***Technical Report on Attribution***, kindly prepared by Germany, was presented at the TFS. This Report will be used as a basis for guidance on attribution to be used in the Implementation Guide. Final adjustments to 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. The Attribution report will be a stand-alone electronic report with texts to be copied into the relevant indicator sections of the Implementation Guide.

The ***Stepwise Approach*** to implement the GSIs, along with the Flowchart and an information document on the use of proxies and best practices, were also presented during the TFS. These documents will form sections of the Implementation Guide to address cross-cutting issues. Inputs are welcomed from Partners and Observers by 18 January 2019 so that these documents can be finalised by the end of February 2019.

The timeline for 2018 for the ***three sub-groups of TFS*** was also agreed upon at the TFS Meeting in order to finalise the guidance on individual indicators for the Implementation Guide. 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 revised report will be circulated by mid-January 2018 at the latest; virtual meetings will be held during the end of January to resolve any outstanding issues; and the text will be finalised by the end of February 2019.

The 16th TFS meeting was also used as an opportunity to discuss ***bioenergy in the context of the bioeconomy***. Partners and Observers recognized the importance of the role of GBEP in bringing visibility to bioenergy within the bioeconomy and providing GBEP's experience in the development of the indicators. A virtual group will be established to further discuss on this theme and Partners and Observers are invited to express interest to join this group. Teleconferences will be held during 2019 within this electronic group for sharing of ideas and exploring opportunities in view of further discussions to be held at the November 2019 GBEP meetings. The possibility to organise a session dedicated to bioeconomy during the 2019 Bioenergy Week was also discussed.

The Steering Committee endorsed the proposed next steps under the TFS.

GBEP programme of work and funding arrangements

Maria Michela Morese (GBEP Executive Secretary) presented the “2018 Financial Report” and the “2019 Budget Estimation” for the implementation of the agreed GBEP activities. Partners and Observers were prized for their contributions, both financially and in kind, that made the activities of 2018 possible. As well as the contributions to the GBEP Secretariat kindly provided by Italy, this also includes: the project funded by Germany on the implementation of the GBEP indicators in Paraguay and Vietnam; the Horizon 2020 project funded by the European Commission, in which FAO is a Partner; the capacity building activities funded by GIZ in Togo and Ghana; and the hosting of the 2018 Bioenergy Week by the Government of Argentina.

With a view to implement the GBEP programme of work, discussed and agreed upon by the 20th Steering Committee, Partners and Observers were invited to contribute, both financially and in-kind, to the GBEP Secretariat and to GBEP’s future activities. A special call to a replenishment of the GBEP Secretariat was made, with the objective to find a sustainable system for the future of the GBEP Secretariat as the main coordinator of GBEP.

GBEP link with the G7 and G20 Summits 2018

The Steering Committee was informed that the “GBEP Report” to the 2018 G7 and G20 Summits were successfully transmitted respectively to the G7 Canadian and G20 Argentinian Presidencies. The Steering Committee also confirmed the importance for GBEP to continue strengthening its linkages with the G7 and G20 Summits, for which a coordination and support from countries among the GBEP members is essential. In particular, it was suggested that extra effort could be made in 2019 to gain a definitive mandate for GBEP under the G20 Summit Declaration, given the G20 Presidency of Japan and the active participation of Japan with GBEP.

Conclusions and Next steps

- ***7th Bioenergy Week to be held in Manila, the Philippines in June 2019 focused on themes of direct interest to Asia*** (to be held during the week of 24-28 June at the Philippine International Convention Center – exact date and venue to be confirmed in due time). The GBEP Secretariat requests inputs from Partners and Observers by 18 January 2019 on potential themes and speakers for the Bioenergy Week, so that a draft agenda can be developed and circulated.
- ***Activity Group 4 will explore the new theme of ‘woody biomass for forest landscape restoration and sustainable livelihoods’***. Partners and Observers are requested to express their interest to join the AG4 by 18 January 2019 in order to be take part in the discussions around this new theme. The option to have a dedicated session at the Bioenergy Week 2019 in Manila was proposed.
- ***Activity Group 7 is developing a stocktaking paper to guide future activities of the group***. A final draft of this paper will be prepared for the 11th Meeting of the WGCB in November 2019. E-learning webinars are being developed on the BiogasDoneRight® model in collaboration with *Consorzio Italiano Biogas* (CIB), the *Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria* (INTA) and Michigan State University. The translation of the webinar material will be finalised by February 2019, and webinars will be held in both Spanish and English to cover different geographical regions.

- ***The Activity Group 8 on advanced liquid biofuels was formally established*** under the leadership of the U.S.A. and the Scope of Work was agreed. Expression of interest from Partners and Observers to join AG8 is requested by 18 January 2019.
- ***The Implementation Guide will be finalised by the end of April 2019.*** This will include the following components:
 - ***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 are requested by 18 January 2019 so that the document can be finalised by the end of February 2019.
 - ***Stepwise Approach*** – any final comments are requested by 18 January 2019 so that the document can be finalised by the end of February 2019.
 - ***Proxies and best practices*** – final comments on this document, and further relevant references, are requested from Partners and Observers by 18 January 2019 so that the document can be finalised by the end of February 2019.
 - ***Economic and social sub-groups of TFS*** – All inputs from Partners and Observers on the 2018 sub-group reports are requested by 18 January 2019 so that the Sub-group texts can be finalised by end of February 2019
 - ***Environmental sub-group of TFS*** – A revised draft of the sub-group will be circulated to Partners and Observers by Mid-January 2019 at the latest and final teleconferences will be held in Late January 2019 to resolve any remaining issues. The Sub-group text will be finalised by end of February 2019.
- ***Dissemination of the Implementation Guide will be carried out from May 2019 onwards***, including 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. 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. The GBEP Secretariat will prepare and print a two-page leaflet and Germany have kindly agreed to support the development of a “Summary for Policy Makers” for dissemination purposes.
- ***Bioenergy and the broader bioeconomy.*** An electronic discussion group will be established 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.
- In terms of ***funding arrangements***, Partners and Observers will investigate replenishment opportunities for the GBEP Secretariat with a view to guarantee a medium/long-term support to the GBEP Secretariat as the main coordinator of GBEP programme of work. Partners and Observers were invited to initiate bilateral discussions with the GBEP Secretariat on this matter.
- ***Linkages with the G7 and G20*** should continue to be strengthened, and Partners and Observers will support this endeavour through their national processes.
- ***22nd GBEP Steering Committee meeting to take place in Rome (FAO Headquarters), during November 2019.*** The exact dates will be circulated as soon as possible. It will be preceded by the 11th Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy and 17th Task Force on Sustainability. The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.