

## **22nd Meeting of the GBEP Steering Committee**

*FAO Headquarters, German Room C-229-C269*

Rome, 29 October 2019

### **Co-Chairs Summary**

The GBEP Steering Committee held its 22nd meeting on 29 October 2019 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Philippines, Spain, Sweden, United States of America, Viet Nam, EUBIA, FAO, IEA, IRENA, UN Environment and WBCSD 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 Mr. Oliviero Montanari (GBEP Co-Chair), while Amb. Fernando Abreu, Permanent Representative to FAO, IFAD and WFP, represented Brazil on behalf of Min. Alex Giacomelli (GBEP Co-Chair).

### **Opening and 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 the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land. This report refers to the importance of deployment of modern bioenergy technologies as a contribution to climate targets; in particular bioenergy practices that would improve landscape restoration. Although most climate mitigation pathways include substantial deployment of modern bioenergy technologies, these can have adverse environmental impacts if not carefully managed, and therefore sustainable bioenergy solutions, such as the use of biomass residues are necessary. Integrated bioenergy solutions that allow for food, feed and energy production can represent a tool for concurrently tackling global issues, and contribute towards the achievement of the SDGs. 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 Membership**

The Steering Committee welcomed Nigeria as new Observer of GBEP.

## **GBEP Programme of Work**

### **Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)**

[Mr. Miguel Almada](#) (Argentina), Co-chair of the WGCB, informed the Steering Committee of the results of the 11th meeting, held on 28 October 2019.

During *Activity Group 2*, experiences of the measurement of the GBEP Sustainability Indicators in Ethiopia and Kenya, as well as on the second measurement in Germany, were presented and discussed. AG2 will continue sharing new measurement experiences in the future, with a view to support the Task Force on Sustainability (TFS) in the updating of the Implementation Guide as new experiences become available.

*Activity Group 3* praised the success of the 2019 Bioenergy Week held in Manila, The Philippines. It was announced that the 2020 Bioenergy Week will be hosted by AFREC/AU in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April/May 2020 (exact dates to be confirmed) focused on themes of direct interest to Africa. The GBEP Secretariat requests inputs from Partners and Observers by 31 December 2019 on potential themes and speakers for the Bioenergy Week, so that a draft agenda can be developed and circulated. It was also announced that the 2021 Bioenergy Week will be held in Paraguay; more details will follow in due time.

*Activity Group 4* is continuing with the activities under the new theme of ‘woody biomass for forest landscape restoration and sustainable livelihoods’, specifically the collection of examples of positive relationships between wood energy and Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR). A revised template will be circulated by the GBEP Secretariat, and Partners and Observers are requested to submit their good examples by 31 December 2019. Webinars will be organized in 2020 to share good examples collected.

*Activity Group 7* is developing a stocktaking paper to guide future activities of the group on biogas. This paper will be finalised by early 2020, with the inclusion of the regional analysis in Asia. After the success of the e-learning webinars on BiogasDoneRight® held during 2019 (in collaboration with Consorzio Italiano Biogas (CIB), the Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA) and Michigan State University), more webinars were suggested for 2020 and the GBEP Secretariat will explore options proposed during the meeting, including a webinar on biochar.

The activities of *Activity Group 8* for 2019/2020 were presented, specifically the collection of good practices and policies in advanced liquid biofuels. Two examples of case studies that have already been received were presented. Partners and Observers are requested to provide more examples through the circulated template by 31 December 2019. Webinars will be organized in 2020 to share good examples collected.

*The importance of involving young generations within GBEP activities and discussions* was discussed. It was agreed that GBEP should make more of a systematised effort to involve young people in its activities, and that the GBEP Bioenergy Weeks may represent a good opportunity for outreach. Therefore, efforts will be made to involve young people in future bioenergy weeks, starting from the Bioenergy Week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2020. A page on the GBEP website will be dedicated to Youth with a view to collect contributions of the

partnership to youth involvement. Partners and Observers are requested to provide more ideas for youth involvement by 31 December 2019.

### **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 17th TFS meeting, held on 29 October 2019.

### ***Implementation Guide***

The first draft of the Implementation Guide was circulated and accepted by Partners and Observers in April 2019. However, this draft does not include the guidance on the environmental indicators, which are yet to be finalised. By 4 November 2019, the Environmental sub-group leader will send the text for the environmental indicators to the GBEP Secretariat for final adjustments. Subject to that, the final agreement on the text of the environmental indicators will be made electronically by 31 December 2019. The Implementation Guide will then be uploaded to the GBEP website as a live document, together with the Attribution Paper.

For dissemination, Germany has generously agreed to produce a short brochure to be used during dissemination events. An online interactive video/dashboard will also be kindly prepared with the support of EUBIA/ETA Florence.

### ***Tool to facilitate implementation of the GSI***

It was agreed during the meeting that an integrated data collection sheet, which could work through excel, could be useful for understanding the overall data requirements for indicator measurement, systematising data collection, and ensuring data consistency. An addendum to the Scope of the Work of the TFS will be developed by the GBEP Secretariat and circulated by 31 December 2019 with the objective to develop a data entry tool. Countries who have already implemented the GSI will contribute to this work, whilst Takashi Hayashi from Japan has volunteered to coordinate these efforts.

### ***Bioenergy within the broader bioeconomy***

The GBEP Secretariat has been collaborating with other initiatives on bioenergy within the broader bioeconomy. In particular, GBEP has collaborated with IEA Bioenergy, FAO, IEA, Biofuture Platform, IRENA, Below50 and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RvO) in the organization of the IEA Bioenergy workshop on ‘Governing sustainability in biomass supply chains for the bioeconomy’, held in Utrecht, 23 May 2019. The GBEP Secretariat is also fostering a collaboration with the European Commission/JRC sharing its experience on the development and measurement of the GSI, to be used as a basis/reference for the indicators to be included in the EU Bioeconomy Monitoring System.

GBEP Secretariat will continue to monitor activities on bioeconomy carried out by Partners and Observers and will work to maintain alignment by Partners and Observers on key messages.

In relevant bioeconomy events, the Partners and Observers, along with the GBEP Secretariat, will continue to publicise the message on the role of sustainable bioenergy and to share the vast experience of GBEP.

Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Sweden and IEA Bioenergy have volunteered to prepare a document on a timeline of work on this topic by 31 December 2019 to be approved electronically.

### **GBEP programme of work and funding arrangements**

Maria Michela Morese (GBEP Executive Secretary) presented the “2019 Financial Report” and the “2020 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 2019 possible. As well as the contributions to the GBEP Secretariat kindly provided by Italy, this also includes: the Horizon 2020 projects funded by the European Commission, in which FAO is a Partner; the capacity building activities funded by GIZ in Togo and Ghana; the hosting of the 2019 Bioenergy Week by the Government of The Philippines; and the generous in kind contributions of Partners and Observers. Moreover, Dr. Morese highlighted that the activities of 2019 were carried out with the lowest annual funds so far in the history of GBEP. In light of this, the Steering Committee was invited to share views about possible different approaches to secure regular funding to the GBEP Secretariat in the future, including through annual pre-defined and differentiated contributions by Partners and Observers.

It was agreed to continue strengthening the current raising of voluntary funds by GBEP Partners and Observers for the GBEP Secretariat, with a view to implement the GBEP programme of work, discussed and agreed upon by the 22nd Steering Committee. In light of this, Partners and Observers were invited to contribute, both financially and in-kind, to the GBEP Secretariat and to GBEP’s future activities.

### **GBEP link with the G7 and G20 Summits 2019**

The Steering Committee was informed that the “GBEP Report” to the 2019 G7 and G20 Summits were successfully transmitted respectively to the G7 French and G20 Japanese Presidencies. Thanks to the commitment and collaboration of the GBEP Partners within the G20, GBEP was mentioned during the preparatory technical meetings on energy although no mention was inserted in the final documents. 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 Partners and Observers is essential.

## **Conclusions and Next steps**

### **Working Group on Capacity Building**

- **Activity Group 2** will continue to gather and share experiences on the implementation of the GBEP indicators as soon as projects are developed.
- **Activity Group 3** - 8<sup>th</sup> Bioenergy Week will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April/May 2020 focused on themes of direct interest to Africa (exact venue and date to be confirmed in due time). The GBEP Secretariat requests inputs from Partners and Observers by 31 December 2019 on potential themes and speakers for the Bioenergy Week, so that a draft agenda can be developed and circulated.
- **Activity Group 4** will continue with the activities under the new theme of ‘woody biomass for forest landscape restoration and sustainable livelihoods’, specifically the collection of examples of positive relationships between wood energy and FLR. A revised template will be circulated by the GBEP Secretariat, and Partners and Observers are requested to submit their good examples by 31 December 2019. Webinars will be organized in 2020 to share good examples collected.
- **Activity Group 7** is developing a stocktaking paper to guide future activities of the group on biogas. This paper will be finalised by early 2020, with the inclusion of the regional analysis in Asia. After the success of the e-learning webinars on BiogasDoneRight® held during 2019, more webinars were suggested for 2020 and the GBEP Secretariat will explore options proposed during the meeting, including a webinar on biochar.
- **Activity Group 8** will continue with the collection of good practices and policies in advanced liquid biofuels. Partners and Observers are requested to provide more examples through the circulated template by 31 December 2019. Webinars will be organized in 2020 to share good examples collected.
- **Youth involvement** – efforts will be made to involve young people in future bioenergy weeks, starting from the 8<sup>th</sup> Bioenergy Week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2020. A page on the GBEP website will be dedicated to Youth with a view to collect contributions of the partnership to youth involvement. Partners and Observers are requested to provide more ideas for youth involvement by 31 December 2019.

### **Task Force on Sustainability**

#### ***Implementation Guide***

- By 4 November 2019, the Environmental sub-group leader will send the text for the environmental indicators to the GBEP Secretariat for final adjustments. Subject to that, the final agreement on the text of the environmental indicators will be made by 31 December 2019. The Implementation Guide will then be uploaded to the GBEP website as a live document, together with the Attribution Paper.

- For dissemination, Germany has generously agreed to produce a short brochure to be used during dissemination events. An online interactive video/dashboard will also be kindly prepared with the support of EUBIA/ETA Florence.

#### ***Tool to facilitate implementation of the GSI***

- An addendum to the Scope of the Work of the TFS will be developed by the GBEP Secretariat and circulated by 31 December 2019 with the objective to develop a data entry tool. Countries who have already implemented the GSI will contribute to this work, whilst Takashi Hayashi from Japan has volunteered to coordinate these efforts.

#### ***Bioenergy within the broader bioeconomy***

- GBEP Secretariat will continue to monitor activities on bioeconomy carried out by Partners and Observers and will work to maintain alignment by Partners and Observers on key messages.
- In relevant bioeconomy events, the Partners and Observers along with the GBEP Secretariat will continue to publicise the message on the role of sustainable bioenergy and to share the vast experience of GBEP.
- Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Sweden and IEA Bioenergy have volunteered to prepare a document on a timeline of work on this topic by 31 December 2019 to be approved electronically.

#### **Funding arrangements**

- Current raising of voluntary funds by GBEP Partners and Observers for the GBEP Secretariat will further continue, with a view to implement the agreed GBEP programme of work. In light of this, Partners and Observers were invited to contribute, both financially and in-kind, to the GBEP Secretariat and to GBEP's future activities.

#### **Linkages with the G7 and G20**

- Linkages with the G7 and G20 should continue to be strengthened, and Partners and Observers will support this endeavour through their national processes.

#### **2020 GBEP Governing Bodies meetings**

- ***23<sup>rd</sup> GBEP Steering Committee meeting to take place in Rome (FAO Headquarters), tentatively during the week 26-30 October 2020.*** The exact dates will be circulated as soon as possible. It will be preceded by the 12<sup>th</sup> Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy and 18<sup>th</sup> Task Force on Sustainability. The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.