

17th meeting of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability*FAO Headquarters, German Room C-229-C269*

Rome, 29 October 2019

Co-Chair Conclusions

The GBEP Task Force on Sustainability (TFS) held its 17th 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, IEA Bioenergy, IRENA, UN Environment, UNIDO and WBCSD participated in the meeting as Partners and Observers.

Opening of the TFS

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 and dissemination

[Constance Miller](#) (GBEP Secretariat, FAO) gave an overview of the status of the Implementation Guide. The first draft was circulated and accepted by Partners and Observers in April 2019, and it was publicised during two events in May 2019: the EUBCE in Lisbon, Portugal; and the IEA Bioenergy Workshop in Utrecht.

However, this draft does not include the guidance on the environmental indicators, which are yet to be finalised. [Uwe Fritsche](#) (Germany, Environmental sub-group leader) presented the current status of this guidance. The draft of the guidance for this section will be sent to the GBEP Secretariat on Monday 4 November 2019. It will then be agreed by the Environmental sub-group members, with a view to be distributed to Partners and Observers for final clearance of the text by 31 December 2019. The Implementation Guide will then be uploaded to the GBEP website as a live document, together with the Attribution Paper.

It was agreed that in order to publicise and disseminate the Implementation Guide, it would be useful to have a brochure that summarises the key elements. Germany has generously agreed to contribute to the creation of such a document, in consultation with GBEP Partners and Observers, and to its publication. It was also suggested that an interactive online video/dashboard could also be useful for dissemination, in order to show where the indicators have been measured and the key lessons learnt. EUBIA/ETA Florence generously agreed to contribute to this additional visibility and dissemination tool.

Dissemination events were also discussed and a number of international events were suggested, for example, the EUBCE (Marseille, France, 27-30 April 2020), the Bioenergy Week 2020 (Addis Ababa, date tbc), and the International Dialogue on FLR and bioenergy in the context of the GBEP/GIZ/IEA Bioenergy collaboration activities (Washington, March 2020). In addition, it was noted that, given the limited resources of the GBEP Secretariat, Partners and Observers need to take ownership of the Implementation Guide and publicise it in the workshops/side events/conferences/webinars that they organise or attend.

The GBEP Secretariat updated Partners and Observers on trainings on the use of the GSI and on the Implementation Guide that were developed by the GBEP Secretariat so far (Ghana,

Jamaica, Philippines and Togo) and on additional ones to follow (including Cuba in 2020 in cooperation with ECLAC). Updates on fund raising activities by the GBEP Secretariat to implement the GBEP indicators in additional countries, as well as for second and subsequent measurements, were also made. Inputs from these additional trainings and measurements will represent new lessons learnt for future Implementation Guide updates.

Finally, a discussion was held on the potential development of a ‘tool’ to aid in the data collection for indicator measurement. An integrated data collection sheet, that could work through excel, could be useful for understanding the overall data requirements for indicator measurement, systematising data collection, and ensuring data consistency. This could be added as an Annex to the Implementation Guide. It was noted that it would be important that this data entry sheet should be well adapted to all countries and contexts and their realities in terms of bioenergy pathways. An addendum to the Scope of the Work of the TFS will be developed by the GBEP Secretariat and circulated for electronic approval 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.

Discussion on bioenergy and the broader bioeconomy

[Constance Miller](#) (GBEP Secretariat/FAO) presented the activities carried out in 2019 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. [Uwe Fritsche](#) (IEA Bioenergy) reported on the key outcomes of this workshop.

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.

It was decided that the GBEP Secretariat will continue to monitor activities on bioeconomy carried out by Partners and Observers and will work to maintain alignment on key messages. Furthermore, 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.

Conclusions and next steps

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.