

25th Meeting of the GBEP Steering Committee***SPECIAL ONLINE MEETING******13.00 – 14.30 CEST time (UTC +2)******Thursday, 23 June 2022******BACKGROUND DOCUMENT******Objective***

FAO is a founding member of GBEP and has been hosting its Secretariat in the FAO Headquarters in Rome since its establishment in 2006 thanks to the generous contributions of GBEP members (Annex I). However, the GBEP project will come to an end on 31 December 2022 unless new funds are mobilised. The aim of this paper is present the current state of GBEP and to discuss its future especially the urgent need for mobilising new resources to keep the project alive.

[GBEP](#) is an international initiative established to reflect the commitment taken by G8 Leaders in 2005 to launch the “Global Bioenergy Partnership to support wider, cost effective, biomass and biofuels deployment, particularly in developing countries where biomass use is prevalent”. The GBEP membership has expanded to include most G20 countries and beyond, reaching up to more than [80 members](#) between Governments and International Organizations. Since its establishment, GBEP has received renewed mandates from subsequent [G7 and G20 Leader Summits](#).

GBEP has gained a robust international trust thanks to its work in the last 16 years. It is internationally recognized as the most relevant international initiative dealing with bioenergy and contributing to ensure that sustainable bioenergy is an engine of low-carbon and sustainable development. Details on the most relevant GBEP achievements are in Annex II.

GBEP ACHIEVEMENTS

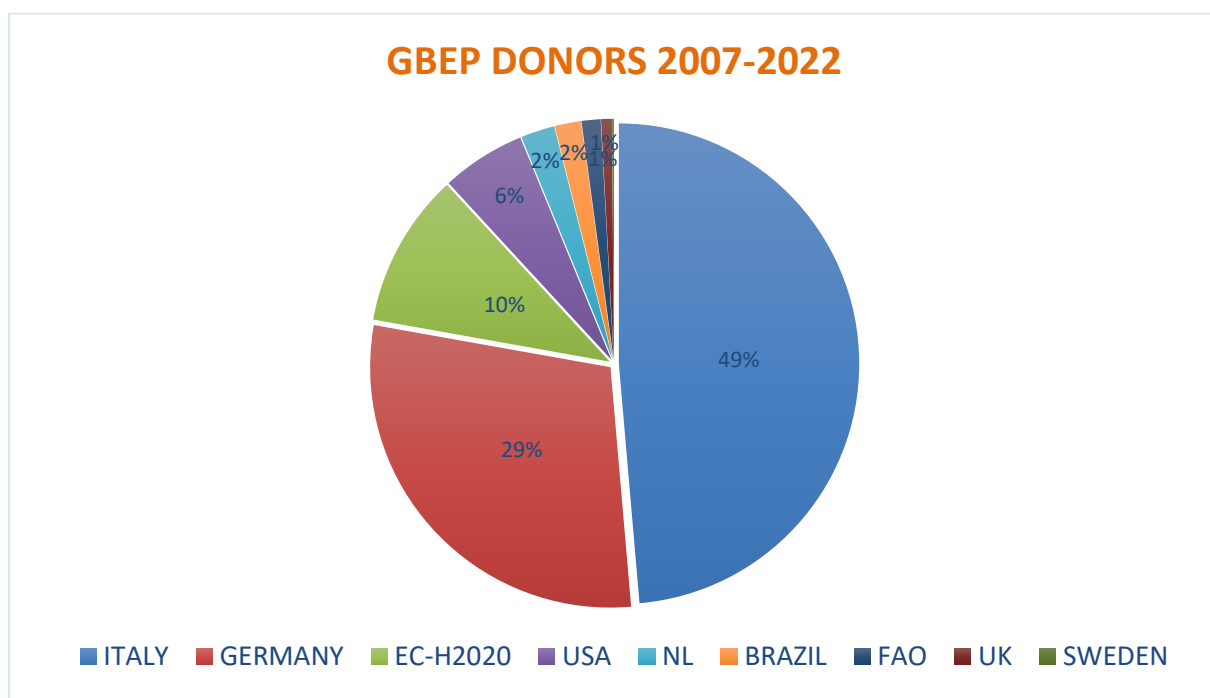
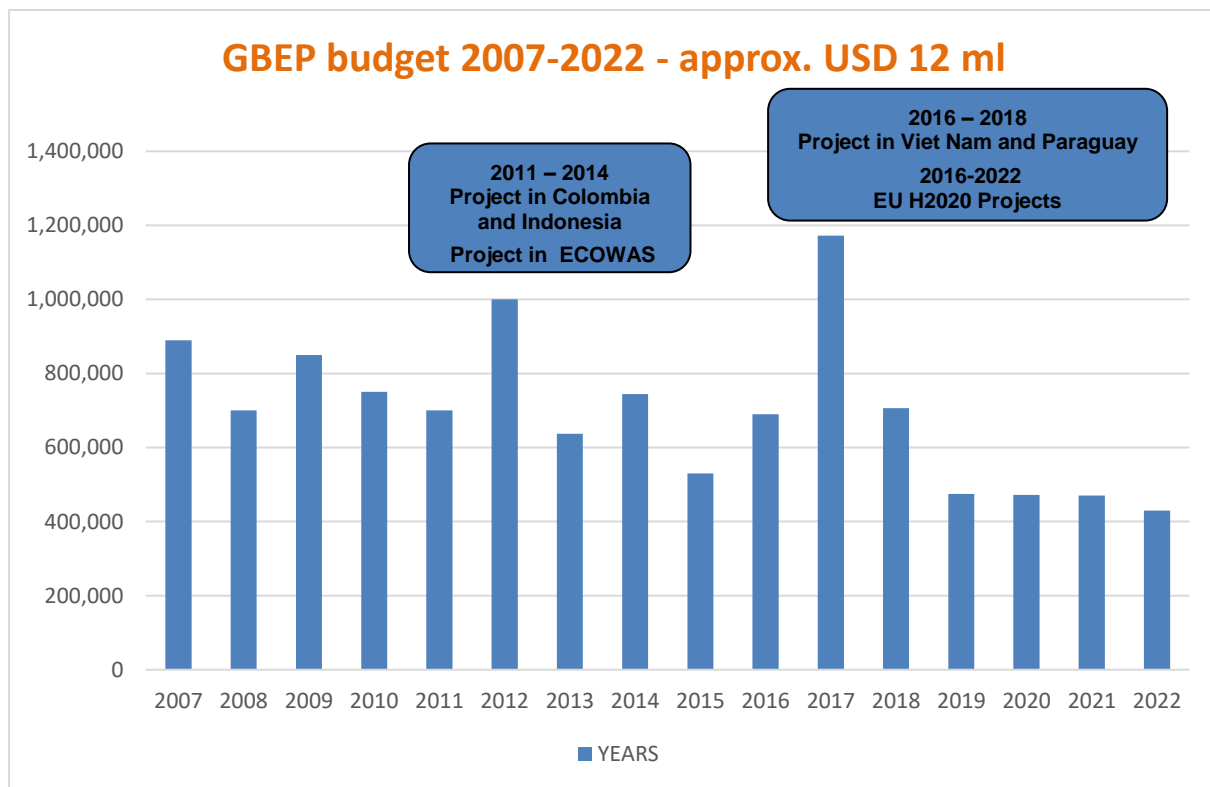
- **The international credibility of GBEP has constantly grown** and it is currently recognized as **the most comprehensive and trusted international initiative focused on bioenergy**.
- The GBEP initiative has been reaching directly **more than half a million experts**, from all over the world, through GBEP organized trainings, workshops and conferences.
- The GBEP initiative leveraged projects and activities providing **policy recommendations on bioenergy sustainability to more than 40 countries**.
- **GBEP has been pioneering in setting the international stage on sustainable bioenergy** by developing tools to guide sustainability assessment, supporting countries with training in various bioenergy related thematic areas including to transitioning from traditional to more modern use of bioenergy, as well as with relevant policy support actions.
- In the last sixteen years GBEP has been leading intense international debate about bioenergy and its role for sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and food and energy security. Finally, today, also thanks to the tirelessly work of GBEP, **bioenergy has a recognized role to play** ([IRENA 2022](#)) and it is projected to almost double by 2050 compared with 2020 ([IEA, 2021](#)). In this context, GBEP has an even stronger recognized role to play to support sustainable bioenergy for net zero growth.
- **GBEP continues receiving requests of support** from GBEP member countries and beyond, to hold trainings on sustainable bioenergy, to monitor the sustainability of national bioenergy value chains with a view to improve them with appropriate policies, and to support countries in transitioning from traditional to more modern use of bioenergy.
- GBEP continues receiving requests to join important international conferences to share its views and 16 year experience on sustainable bioenergy, with a view **to contribute to a global sustainability governance of bioenergy**.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

The current end date of the GBEP support project is 31 December 2022, in light of remaining funds.

- ❖ How can we mobilise resources to keep the partnership alive?
- ❖ What opportunities exist and how can we start exploring them?
- ❖ What plan and roadmap towards achieving this?

ANNEX I



ANNEX II

❖ GBEP PROGRAMME OF WORK AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

1. SUSTAINABILITY

GBEP has developed the most widely recognized [*set of 24 voluntary indicators to monitor the sustainability of all forms of bioenergy*](#). These indicators are a tool to monitor the sustainability of any bioenergy value chain (under the environmental, social and economic point of view) with the objective to inform decision making and facilitate the sustainable development of bioenergy. The indicators take a holistic approach to assessing many important aspects of the intersection of bioenergy and sustainability, including greenhouse gas emissions, biological diversity, food security, access to energy, economic development and energy security.

As of 2022, the GBEP indicators have supported [*fourteen countries*](#) to monitor and improve their bioenergy value chains (i.e. Argentina, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, Paraguay and Viet Nam) and in additional countries are in the process to be implemented.

Still within the sustainability approach, it is worth reminding that back in 2009 GBEP developed a “[*Common methodological framework*](#)” for use of policy making and stakeholders when measuring and reporting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions from bioenergy.

2. CAPACITY BUILDING

GBEP has been focusing on [*capacity development activities*](#) with a view to raise awareness of the benefits of sustainable modern bioenergy and support related policy making. Amongst the main achievements:

- ✓ GBEP supported the development of a [*Regional Strategy on Bioenergy in the Economic Community of West African States \(ECOWAS\)*](#) that was agreed in the context of GBEP activities, and adopted by ECOWAS Governments in 2015 as a tool to facilitate the transition from traditional bioenergy towards more modern and sustainable forms of bioenergy.
- ✓ GBEP organizes [*Study Tours for Sustainable Bioenergy*](#). Eight Bioenergy Weeks have been organized so far, every year in a different region of the world, as opportunities for scientists and officials to learn from good examples in the sustainable production and use of bioenergy to guide bioenergy policies. The 2022 edition is planned to take place in Latin America.
- ✓ *Thematic discussions, capacity development activities and trainings* have been held *inter alia* on the [*links between wood energy and forest landscape restoration*](#) with a view to best contribute to climate targets; [*bioenergy mapping*](#); [*bioenergy and water*](#); [*biogas*](#); [*advanced liquid biofuels*](#); and bioenergy and nutrition security. [*Bioeconomy and the role of bioenergy*](#) in this broader context also represents a key focus area.