



**Technical Working Group (TWG)
in preparation for the 2nd Steering Committee of the
Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)**

**28-29 September 2006
FAO Headquarters – Rome**

Conclusions

Introduction

This briefing note summarises the main conclusions from the deliberation of the GBEP Technical Working Group (TWG) held in Rome on 28-29 September 2006 in preparation for the Partnership's 2nd Steering Committee Meeting on 17-18 October 2006.

The TWG's discussions centred on initiating the preparation of a concrete work programme for the Partnership based upon its five short-medium term actions:

1. Update the inventory of existing networks, initiatives and institutions dealing with bioenergy in order to avoid duplication, and allow integration and leverage of international activities;
2. Identify gaps in knowledge or areas of weak understanding;
3. Carry out scoping of feasibility studies for market building activities, in cooperation with interested developing countries;
4. Establish mechanisms for raising awareness and dealing with issues of international relevance (e.g. environmental standards, food security/MDG1, trade) and gaps in technology and policy;
5. Formulate standard guidelines to measure the greenhouse gas emission reductions through the promotion and use of biofuels in the transport and energy generation sectors. This would include the development of baseline methodologies and monitoring tools to be used for project activities in the bioenergy field.

The TWG also discussed the planned *modus operandi* of the Partnership.

GBEP Secretariat, with inputs from Partners, had prepared the following documentation for consideration by the TWG:

- an updated version of Annex 1 of the Partnership's White Paper, which provides an inventory of bioenergy initiatives in table format (related to Action 1);
- an updated version of Annex 3 of the White Paper "Areas for Action" (related to Action 2);
- a table summarising information on project proposals submitted by Partners for possible collaboration within GBEP (related to Action 3);
- a note on awareness raising outlining key points for discussion in the TWG (related to Action 4);
- a technical background note for the discussion of Action 5 (prepared by FAO);
- a note on the *modus operandi* of the Partnership outlining initial considerations for deliberation of the TWG.

This conclusion note reports the main points of the TWG discussions related to each of the five short-medium term actions and to the *modus operandi*.

Action 1 of the GBEP “Programme of Work”: Update the inventory of existing networks, initiatives and institutions dealing with bioenergy in order to avoid duplications, and allow integration and leverage of international activities

Purpose of inventory is threefold:

1. Avoid duplication and foster complementarity of activities;
2. Exchange information about relevant initiatives;
3. Raise profile of bioenergy as a topic by highlighting relevant initiatives and networks.

Participants suggested to:

- Keep Annex 1 of the White Paper as basis for a living database, which ideally will be updated through contributions from Partners; consider possibility to allow Partners to update information directly through password protected access to the website, following a standard format to be provided by the Secretariat.
- Keep all sub-sections in the database: global initiatives; regional initiatives; national policies; bilateral projects:
 1. Aim to be comprehensive and fully updated on global and regional initiatives only;
 2. Information on national policies and bilateral projects will be included as made available by Partners;
 3. Retain information on bilateral projects is important to inform partners, and also in view of proposed joint project implementation approach to exchange results/lessons from similar projects (see Action 3);
 4. for national policies GBEP will be linking to IEA database on the web but without losing what has been collected until now in the document and adding new information made available by partners.
- Insert web link and (where possible) contact details of Technical/Initiative focal point for each item included in the annexes
- Add new column with outputs/main activities for each initiative/project
- Once the GBEP website will be operational, this database could be made available on the web site. It should be accessible for consultation in a public area of the web.
- Eventually the annexes could be converted to a searchable database on the web. Search criteria should include “countries”, “sectors” and “topics (keywords)”

GBEP Secretariat follow-up:

Add new column on outputs/activities in Annex 1 table and request Partners to provide the additional information.

Partners’ contributions

Continue to keep Secretariat updated in order to keep the database alive:

1. Where possible, send to the Secretariat further updates on Partners initiatives/activities, and the necessary information to fill the new column on outputs/activities;
2. Send weblinks and Technical/Initiative focal points and contact details for each entry, where possible.

Action 2: Identify gaps in knowledge or areas of weak understanding

Purpose of Action 2 is to provide elements to guide GBEP activities.

The TWG discussion highlighted the following:

- Analysis of gaps is important to guide GBEPs work
- Rather than a universal gap analysis, it may be preferable to identify gaps related to the achievement of specific GBEP objectives/results as contained in the Terms of Reference.
- Gap analysis can be carried out at different levels:
 - “Quick and dirty”: Partners suggest a few gaps for each results area
 - Comprehensive analysis following more detailed agreed terms of reference
- Ask for Steering Committee guidance on how to proceed:
 - which level of depth of analysis;
 - which scope: gap analysis related specifically to GBEP results or to sustainable bioenergy development in a broader sense;
- Request Steering Committee to indicate which Partner is willing to lead and support this task
- Gaps could be grouped by categories/thematic areas:
 - policy issues;
 - technology issues;
 - developed versus developing countries.
- Collect from Partners gap analysis they have already developed internally, at national, regional or global level.

GBEP Secretariat Follow up at the Steering Committee:

Report to the Steering Committee the result of the technical discussion and ask for guidance on the following issues:

1. prioritization within GBEP objectives: what should be the focus of the gap analysis;
2. implementation approach for gap analysis and identification of leading Partner and collaborating Partners.

Partners' contributions

Where possible, send to the Secretariat all information that may have been developed on gap analysis at national/organisational level (if possible, prior to SC Meeting)

Action 3: Carry out scoping of feasibility studies for market building activities, in cooperation with interested developing countries

Purpose of Action 3: To increase the contribution of sustainable bioenergy to global energy supply through concrete projects implemented jointly by Partners

TWG discussions highlighted the following points:

- Possible modalities for implementation to be explored by the partnership:
 1. exchange of information on results and lessons learned from projects with related thematic focus (through virtual networks);
 2. creation of GBEP Programmes on specific themes agreed upon by Partners within which different Partners carry out individual projects which together contribute to a common objective;
 3. co-implementation of specific projects mutually agreed upon by Partners (co-funding and/or workshare).
- In order to proceed with (1.) Partners should identify priority project themes for exchange of information. A more comprehensive account of relevant Partner project activities (also relevant to Action 1) will facilitate the identification of joint areas of interest and aid process of sharing information/results on specific themes.
- To lead to successful projects, it is important to increase collaboration in GBEP by:
 - developing country partners
 - the private sector
- Specific areas of interest for joint projects/programmes:
 - standardisation, code of practice, certification – in particular sustainability issues;
 - country specific support – bringing in diverse field of expertise from GBEP partners to assist developing country partner in developing sustainable bioenergy programmes.

GBEP Secretariat follow-up prior to Steering Committee:

1. Prepare outline of different collaboration modalities for discussion at the SC meeting.
2. Update information in project overview table to present to the SC (based upon Partner contributions).
3. Following the SC (if general approach is endorsed), provide simple format to partners for summary of relevant ongoing/completed bilateral activities to facilitate sharing of information and results between partners.

Partners' Contributions

1. Continue contributing/udating/improving information on existing and/or planned project for GBEP partner collaboration within the format of the table distributed. (for projects to be included in documentation sent to the Steering Committee (contributions must reach GBEP Sec by 10 October)
2. In preparation for the SC meeting, discuss internally to identify specific projects/programmes/themes in which they would like to collaborate as a Partner.
3. In preparation for the SC meeting, identify specific priority themes for possible future GBEP collaborative Programmes.

Action 4: Establish mechanism for raising awareness and dealing with issues of international relevance and gaps in technology and policy

All participants confirmed that awareness raising activities are essential.

- Specific priority activities are:
 - website: key priority;
 - standard GBEP presentation which can be used by all Partners;
 - leaflet explaining GBEP.
- Website should contain information about GBEP and include the inventory of initiatives/projects, an updated list of relevant event and selected technical information and links to other relevant sites, documents and institutions. GBEP website should act mostly as “portal” to information contained on other sites (Partners and other institutions) rather than provider of content.
- Other mechanisms suggested (education programmes, awards) are relevant, but possibly in longer term. Additional mechanism to consider: electronic fora/workshops.
- All target groups (political decision-makers, technical experts, private sector, civil society) are relevant. Should add “parliamentarians”. Civil society/general public is most difficult audience to reach.
- GBEP should focus on areas/activities where global reach/collaboration adds most value. Political decision-makers, especially in international fora, are target group that GBEP through its membership composition is particularly well suited to address.
- GBEP should NOT organise *new conferences* and should only participate in selected events. *Workshops/seminars* should be organized only on very specific issues where GBEP has a comparative advantage, for instance, “sustainability of bioenergy”.
- Partners should promote GBEP through their participation in different fora. In addition, GBEP Secretariat will participate in selected events, where appropriate.
- Enlargement of GBEP partnership, especially bringing on board developing country partners, is the key mechanism to raise awareness but it still unclear how that process will work.

GBEP Secretariat follow-up:

- Bring on board expertise for website design, and work with partners to develop appropriate structure and content
- Clarify possibility to set up password protected “Partners only” area if requested by SC
- Manage and update website
- Prepare a standard presentation to be used by Partners to present GBEP
- Prepare a leaflet on GBEP as an important and early step in its promotion

Partners’ contributions:

- Advise GBEP Sec on website design and content by:
 - Suggesting relevant websites to review for structure and content and (where possible) provide name(s) which GBEP Sec may contact for advice
 - Suggesting specific content that should be included on the website
 - Providing suggestions on use and content of possible “Partners only” area should it be requested by the SC.
- Provide suggestions for GBEP side events at major events (for instance COP12)
- Update Secretariat on relevant planned events to be included in the GBEP calendar
- Identify fora/events in which Partner intends to present GBEP

Action 5: Formulating standard guidelines to measure greenhouse gas emission reductions through the promotion and use of biofuels in the transport and energy generation sectors. This would include the development of baseline methodologies and monitoring tools to be used for project activities in the bioenergy field.

TWG discussions highlighted the following points:

- TWG participants acknowledged that while significant work has already been carried out by Partners (including through ongoing collaboration between individual Partners) and other institutions, further consolidated efforts are needed to finalise methodologies and reach decisions on adoption of relevant guidelines by the relevant authorities.
- TWG noted that the most immediate event of importance is COP-12.
- During the TWG Italy, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNDP signalled their interest in participating in a GBEP informal “working group” on Action V. The U.S. expressed its interest in understanding the outcomes of the working group. Other Partners are welcome to join at any time.
- Methane to Markets partnership was pointed out as being an interesting reference point for GBEP’s work on GHG emission reductions through bioenergy, in particular with a view to bringing the private sector on board.
- Partners also expressed interest in collaborating on specific projects (possibly in the realm of Action 3). The Partnership offers strong entry points for collaboration, in particular on CDM projects, as it includes representatives as it includes representatives involved with project development and technical advice, as well as potential buyers of carbon credits..
- Work in preparation for COP-12:
 - Work jointly on supporting the development of monitoring and baseline methodologies and approval processes in preparation of COP-12. Collaboration will take place through personal consultations or via email and telephone.
 - FAO, UNEP, UNCTAD and UNDP are working closely together in preparation of COP-12. Contact person: Ingmar Juergens, Ingmar.Juergens@fao.org.
 - Participants offered to advocate for the amendment of existing modalities of procedures governing project approval under the CDM in order to better include bioenergy projects, with special emphasis on the upcoming COP/MOP-12 which is expected to take a decision on the case of non-renewable biomass.
 - Italy has proposed taking the draft decision referred to in the TWG preparatory note to the European expert groups in preparation of COP-12.

Activities of FAO as current leading Partner of informal working group:

Develop draft note summarising main issues and suggest way forward for GBEP working group on the basis of TWG discussions and a first round of dialogue among interested parties prior to the SC via email and phone. To be presented at SC Meeting.

Partners’ contributions:

- Express concrete interest in cooperation with GBEP Partners on this topic and provide suggestions to FAO on what to include in an initial workplan for GBEP as well as contact details of individuals who would become collaborators (prior to and during SC meeting);
- If SC endorses GBEP collaboration on carbon finance projects, provide contact details of Partner/agency representatives working on carbon finance, especially those interested in buying and selling emission reductions from bioenergy.

GBEP Modus Operandi
Working together to increase the contribution of bioenergy
to sustainable development worldwide

The TWG discussions highlighted the following, in addition to what was discussed under Action 1-5:

- TWG should not become a standing/regular body but only meet as and if required. Primary mode of interaction should be via website (once established), email and telephone/videoconference.
- Each Partner should nominate “Technical Focal Point”, to be inserted in the GBEP Technical Contact list.
- Consider establishing working groups/task forces related to specific outputs of the GBEP’s work programme where appropriate
- To involve the private sector, in addition to including private sector associations as Partners, GBEP should consider collaborating with individual private sector partners at the project level.

GBEP Secretariat follow-up:

Elaborate and update background note for presentation and discussion at the Steering Committee.