

6th Steering Committee of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)

FAO Headquarters, Rome

15 December 2008

Chair Summary

Participants

The 6th Steering Committee meeting of the Global Bioenergy Partnership registered the participation of the following Partners: Brazil, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, United Kingdom, United States of America, EUBIA, FAO, IEA, UN Foundation, UNEP and UNIDO. Argentina, Austria, Colombia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Switzerland and IFAD participated as Observers.

GBEP Membership

Sweden became a Partner by signing the GBEP ToR. Spain became a Partner with a formal commitment and by signing the ToR shortly after the meeting.

Financial contribution

The co-Chair gratefully acknowledged the contribution from the United Kingdom, which was intended to facilitate the attendance of developing country delegates at this and future GBEP meetings.

GBEP Programme of Work

1. GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies

The United States, co-Chair of the GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies, reported to the Steering Committee on the work that the Task Force had achieved and on possible next steps. The Task Force had almost completed the tasks asked of it. The methodological framework, intended to guide policy makers and institutions when calculating GHG emissions from bioenergy and to enable life cycle assessments of the GHG emissions of bioenergy to be compared on an equal basis, was presented to the Steering Committee. Only a few refinements to the final box, which dealt with the comparison with the fossil fuel displaced, remained to be made. The final requested task to be finalised was the production of good practice guidance to assist those wishing to use the methodological framework.

The proposed next step was to invite Partners and Observers to test the draft methodological framework by using the tool to review their own methodologies and sharing the results with the Task Force. A report of the work of the Task Force would be produced by the end of March 2009, which would form part of the input to the GBEP report to the G8 Summit 2009.

The Steering Committee endorsed the draft methodological framework and encouraged Partners and Observers to test it and share results. It also endorsed the development of the report by March 2009 that should include the finalised methodological framework and good practice guidance, an explanation for non-experts of the work and its purpose, any results

obtained from using the tool to review methodologies, and possibly an addendum of GBEP members' policy papers relating to GHG LCA of bioenergy.

2. GBEP Task Force on Sustainability

The United Kingdom, Chair of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability, updated the Steering Committee on the progress of the Task Force. The Task Force was focussing on developing a set of global science-based criteria and indicators regarding the sustainability of bioenergy. Good progress had been made in the first three Task Force meetings such that text on the scope of the work had been agreed and a compromise had been reached on the nature of the wording of the criteria (neutral rather than directional or descriptive). A revised version of the criteria, in light of the discussion in Sao Paulo, and a proposal for taking the work forward by forming sub-groups would be circulated by the Secretariat in support of the Task Force Chair by 9 January 2009.

During the discussion, the Partner who had in the 3rd meeting of the Task Force in Sao Paulo opposed the inclusion of the criterion "food security" welcomed discussion of possible science-based indicators for a food security criterion and proposed to drop their request for a criterion on "food, feed and fibre supply".

The Steering Committee commended the work of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability thus far and recognised the importance of balancing speed of progress with realism and the development of real consensus. The Task Force should keep in mind how GBEP could add value and differentiate its work from other initiatives on sustainability criteria as well as start to consider how the criteria and indicators would be used. The Steering Committee also endorsed the development of a progress report in April 2009, which would form part of the input to the GBEP report to the G8 Summit 2009.

3. GBEP Communication Strategy

The Secretariat introduced a background paper on the GBEP communication strategy submitted to the Steering Committee for discussion and decision. The Steering Committee congratulated the Secretariat on the long list of activities that it had developed since the official launch of the Partnership. It was suggested that the focus be on further developing the website in terms of posting key papers in a more easily accessible way, using the restricted area of the website to facilitate exchange of information and comments received by Partners/Observers on the current GBEP work, and exploring possibility to create a communication network within the restricted area.

Some changes to the three strategic pillars of GBEP's work were suggested during the Steering Committee discussion and the Secretariat will issue a proposal for comment.

4. Proposals for Additions to the Programme of Work

A Partner proposed that GBEP start working on the area of technology in light of the fact that the move to second generation biofuels is so important. After some exchange of views including suggestions to refer to conventional technologies and technology transfer, the Steering Committee agreed that a new Task Force on Innovation and Sustainability would be interesting. The Chair invited Partners and Observers to send their proposals on the scope of work to the GBEP Secretariat for discussion at the next Technical Working Group to be held at the beginning of 2009 in conjunction with forthcoming meetings of the GHG and Sustainability Task Forces.

Next steps

GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies

- The Secretariat will circulate the draft complete methodological framework by 7 January 2009. *Partners and Observers are invited to comment by 19 January 2009.*
- *Partners and Observers are invited to test the framework* by using it to review their methodologies and to share results with the Task Force *by the end of February 2009.*

GBEP Task Force on Sustainability

- The Secretariat will circulate revised criteria and proposal for taking work forward on 9 January 2009. *Partners and Observers are invited to comment by 30 January 2009.*

Innovation and sustainability

- *Partners and Observers are invited to send proposals for new GBEP work in the area of Innovation and Sustainability to the Secretariat by 30 January 2009.* The Secretariat will then produce a paper to be discussed by the Technical Working Group in March 2009 with a view to defining a new area of work for GBEP.

Next GBEP meetings

- Germany kindly offered to host the **next Task Forces and Technical Working Group meetings in Heidelberg (Germany) in March 2009**. Exact dates and further information will be provided by the GBEP Secretariat in due course.
- **New York, 13-15 May 2009 – 7th Steering Committee meeting and a GBEP side event** to take place during the high-level segment of CSD-17. Further details will be provided by the GBEP Secretariat in due course.