Conclusions of the 2nd GBEP Task Force Meeting on GHG Methodologies
Washington D.C., 6-7 March 2008

The Global Bioenergy Partnership held its second task force meeting on harmonizing greenhouse gas (GHG) methodologies in Washington, D.C. on March 6-7. The meeting was hosted by the UN Foundation (thanks to the financial contribution of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation) and co-chaired by the United States and UN Foundation. The meeting was well attended with participation from: Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Commission (EC), France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. FAO, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the European Environment Agency (EEA), Purdue University, Rembio (Mexico), the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels, UNCTAD, UNIDO, the UN Foundation, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the University of California, the University of Minnesota, Winrock International, and the GBEP Secretariat also attended.

This second task force meeting built off the accomplishments of the first meeting held in October 2007, where the task force developed a checklist for what different countries should be analyzing in measuring the GHG benefits of biofuels. The goal of the second meeting was to further develop the checklist and develop a timeline for when the task force’s work would be completed. Additionally, at the request of the GBEP Steering Committee, the task force considered if it was possible to incorporate solid biomass fuel in the methodological framework.

The meeting also provided a means for countries and institutions to update the task force on new policy developments relating to biofuels and GHG reductions. A number of countries and organizations presented, including: the EC, the U.S., the Roundtable on Sustainable Development, Germany, Netherlands, Winrock International, France, UC Berkeley, the UK, UNFCCC, Argonne National Laboratory, and various universities. These presentations led to active and interesting discussions on many important issues including indirect land-use change, the necessity of comparing biofuel lifecycle analyses to a full life cycle analysis of the fuel replaced, and how solid biomass can be incorporated into the framework. Presentations can be found on the GBEP website at: www.globalbioenergy.org.

After the discussions, the task force decided that rather than developing a universal GHG methodology, it was more appropriate and feasible to provide a methodological framework for countries/institutions to use when developing GHG methodologies for biofuels (Annex 1). The task force decided that the methodological framework would consist of a series of ten questions derived from the checklist agreed to at the first meeting. The Taskforce also recognized the need to develop more specific sub-questions in some cases and formed four sub-groups to address these questions and where possible identify where it is possible to dig deeper (Annex 2).

The goal of the methodological framework is to provide a reference of pertinent questions for countries/institutions to ask when seeking to develop a methodology. Although the answers may differ, the task force recognized that having a commonly agreed set of questions will increase transparency and facilitate comparison amongst methodologies. It was also recognized that solid biomass fuel concerns should be incorporated into the framework.
NEXT STEPS

The Taskforce approved an action plan to complete the framework by at least March 2009 (Annex 3). In order to meet this deadline the taskforce will complete consideration of the sub-questions by June 15, 2008 and to provide a draft methodological framework available for public comment. *The lead country for each Subgroup will provide this information to the United States and UN Foundation co-chairs no later than June 15, 2008.* If a country is not on a particular Subgroup, this does not prevent them from providing information if deemed necessary.
At the second GBEP GHG methodologies meeting the taskforce developed the common methodological framework below.

**ANNEX 1**

**Biofuel LCA Compared to Fossil Fuel LCA**

- Are you addressing:
  - a. Transmission to processing plant?
  - b. Refinery?
  - c. Fuel transport and distribution?
  - d. Tailpipe emissions?

**On-farm/forest Elements (to farm/forest gate)**

- Are you addressing:
  - a. IPCC guidelines?
  - b. Energy use of farm machinery use?
  - c. Energy content for delivery of irrigation water?
  - d. Maintenance burning?
  - e. Net carbon emissions from soil degradation (native lands going under the plow)?
  - f. Net carbon accumulation from change in cropping system (i.e., to no till)?
  - g. Net carbon accumulation from change from annual to perennial?

**Processing Plant to Distribution**

- Are you considering:
  - a. Average transportation to retailer?
  - b. Other?

**Solid Biomass Fuel Usage**

- Are you addressing:
  - a. Electricity?
  - b. Heat/Energy?

**Liquid Fuels Usage: Wells to Wheels**

- Are you addressing:
  - a. Miles per energy unit?
  - b. Tailpipe emissions?

**Land Indirectly Converted as a Result of Biofuels**

- Are you addressing:
  - a. Is indirect land-use change considered? (e.g., deforestation, habitat loss)?
  - b. Other?

**Land Directly Converted to Grow Biofuel Feedstocks**

- Have you taken into account changes in inventory of above ground biomass (use IPCC methodologies)?
- Have you addressed net carbon emissions?
  - a. Deforestation (e.g., slash and burn)?
  - b. Deforestation by biomass?
  - c. Maintenance burning?
  - d. Net carbon emissions from soil degradation (native lands going under the plow)?
  - e. Net carbon accumulation from change in cropping system (i.e., to no till)?
  - f. Net carbon accumulation from change from annual to perennial?

**Processing Energy**

- Are you considering:
  - a. What is the energy content of production supplies?
  - b. What is the energy use in processing cycle?
  - c. What is the energy expended in plant construction?

**Biofuel LCA**

- Are you measuring:
  - a. CO$_2$?
  - b. NH$_3$ or CH$_4$?
  - c. Other gases?

**Questions being further developed by Subgroup 1 led by the United States**

**Questions being further developed by Subgroup 2 led by the EC**

**Questions being further developed by Subgroup 3 led by Germany**

**Questions being further developed by Subgroup 4 led by Brazil**
ANNEX 2

The taskforce recognized that several components of the methodological framework needed further discussion and decided to develop sub-groups in order to have those discussions. Four subgroups were formed and there tasks are to:

1. Identify what the necessary questions are for each relevant topic
2. Time allowing, see where it is possible to dig deeper and provide answers
3. Include in the considerations the impact on solid biomass and liquid biofuels
4. Work through the sub-group leads who will then provide the sub-questions to the co-chairs of the taskforce
5. Finish consideration of the necessary sub-questions by June 15th 2008

Subgroup 1 – Land Use Change and Feedstock Production
Lead: United States

Participants: Canada, the European Commission (EC), France, Germany, IEA, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Purdue University, Rembio (Mexico) Sweden, UNEP, UN Foundation, UNFCCC, University of California, the United Kingdom, University of Minnesota, the United States, and Winrock International.

Developing Sub-questions for Following Framework Questions:
- #3 – Is there land use change (indirect and direct land use sub-questions)?
- #4 – How is the biomass feedstock produced?

Subgroup 2 – Biomass Processing
Lead: the European Commission (EC)

Participants: Canada, EC, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Rembio (Mexico), Netherlands, Sweden, UK and US.

Developing Sub-questions for Following Framework Questions:
- #5 – Are there any byproducts/co-products?
- #7 – Does the biomass need to be processed into fuel?

Subgroup 3 - Fuel Transportation and Use
Lead: Germany

Participants: the EC, EEA, Germany, IEA, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden and U.S.

Developing Sub-questions for Following Framework Questions:
- #6 – Is the biomass transported away from the production site?
- #8 – Does the fuel need to be transported for use?
- #9 – What are the GHG emissions from fuel use?
Subgroup 4 - Biofuel Usage Compared to Fossil Fuels

Lead: Brazil

Participants: Brazil, Canada, France, IEA, Germany, Japan, UNEP, UN Foundation, UNFCCC, University of California, and the United States.

Developing Sub-questions for Following Framework Questions

- #10 How does it compare to fuel replaced?
## Action Plan for GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies

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