

7th GBEP Technical Working Group meeting

Barceló Carthage Thalasso Hotel

La Marsa-Gammarth, Tunis (Tunisia), 5 May 2010

Co-Chair Conclusions

The GBEP Technical Working Group (TWG) held its seventh meeting in Tunis on 5 May 2010. Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Mauritania, Netherlands, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America, FAO, IDB, IEA, UN Foundation, UNEP and UNIDO participated in the meeting which was co-chaired by Brazil and Italy.

Further to the invitation of the 6th SC meeting in Rome in December 2008 to explore opportunities to extend the GBEP programme of work to technology development, deployment and cooperation for sustainable bioenergy, the Technical Working Group started working towards the establishment of a new GBEP Task Force. Upon decision of the 7th SC meeting in New York in May 2009, the TWG was invited to start working on two areas related to technology for sustainable bioenergy and to continue working towards consensus on the scope and programme of work for the new Task Force.

The 7th TWG was invited to consider a revised scope and programme of work of the GBEP Task Force on Financing, Capacity Building and Technology Cooperation for Sustainable Bioenergy, for submission to and consideration by the 9th GBEP Steering Committee meeting (Tunis, 7 May 2010). The revised scope and programme of work, dated 29 April 2010, reflected all comments expressed by GBEP Partners and Observers.

New GBEP Task Force on Financing, Capacity Building and Technology Cooperation for Sustainable Bioenergy

1. Scope and Programme of work of the new GBEP Task Force

The GBEP Secretariat presented the revised scope and programme of work for the new Task Force, highlighting the three main focus areas including its proposed activities:

1. Facilitate financing of sustainable bioenergy;
2. Capacity building for bioenergy policy-making;
3. Technology cooperation.

Most members of the Technical Working Group gave positive responses to the revised scope and programme of work, and consensus emerged on capacity building activities for bioenergy on analytical tools as well as to cooperation activities on bioenergy technologies (Tasks 2a and 3a of the revised scope and programme of work under discussion).

However, the discussion highlighted difficulties in agreeing on the following activities:

- utilization within the new Task Force of the outputs of the current Task Forces on Sustainability and on GHG Methodologies for capacity building purposes;
- developing guidance and informative tools to facilitate access to financing of sustainable bioenergy projects and programmes;

- working on capacity building and technology cooperation related activities that may have an influence on national policies.

In the light of this, the TWG agreed to ask the Steering Committee for clear guidance in order to decide if a new Task Force should be endorsed on the basis of the current consensus or if a more robust programme of work was preferred and therefore more work was needed.

2. Initial work on technology for sustainable bioenergy: GBEP reports

In addition to the discussion on the scope and programme of work of the new GBEP Task Force, the TWG agreed to publish on the GBEP website two reports related to the initial work on technology for sustainable bioenergy:

- report on “Financing options for bioenergy projects and programmes” intended to facilitate access to financing for sustainable bioenergy projects and programmes;
- report on “Analytical tools to assess and unlock sustainable bioenergy potential” intended to contribute to building country capacity for assessing sustainable bioenergy potential and devising and implementing a strategy for realization of this potential.

The GBEP Secretariat was asked to keep these reports updated from time to time, in collaboration with Partners and Observers, and to explore the possibility of creating a search tool on the website to facilitate access to relevant information by users.

With reference to the draft report developed by UNIDO “Deployment of technologies for sustainable bioenergy”, more discussion and input are required on the basis of the activities of the new Task Force.

Next steps

- ❖ The GBEP Secretariat will post on the GBEP website the two reports related to the initial work on technology for sustainable bioenergy:
 - report on “*Financing options for bioenergy projects and programmes*” intended to facilitate access to financing for sustainable bioenergy projects and programmes;
 - report on “*Analytical tools to assess and unlock sustainable bioenergy potential*” intended to contribute building country capacity for assessing sustainable bioenergy potential and devising and implementing a strategy for realization of this potential.The GBEP Secretariat, in collaboration with Partners and Observers, will keep these reports updated from time to time and will explore the possibility of creating a search tool on the website to facilitate access to relevant information by users.
- ❖ The GBEP Secretariat will circulate a **revised scope and programme of work** of the new GBEP Task Force in the light of the guidance received from the Steering Committee to start working on activities where there is already consensus and continue to seek agreement on a more robust programme of work. This revised version will be submitted to the next Steering Committee for formal endorsement and establishment of the new Task Force.