

8th GBEP Task Force meeting on GHG methodologies

FAO Headquarters - Mexico Room
Rome, 1 October 2010

Co-Chairs conclusions

The Task Force on GHG methodologies of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) held its eighth meeting in Rome, at FAO Headquarters, on 1 October 2010. Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, ECREEE/ECOWAS, FAO, IDB, UN Foundation and UNEP participated in the meeting. The meeting was co-chaired by the U.S. and the UN Foundation.

After one year of testing and dissemination, the Task Force agreed to revise “Version Zero” of the GBEP methodological framework, published in June 2009, on the basis of feedback received in the testing phase, with the main goal of improving the clarity of the document.

The aim of the meeting was to review the draft “Version One” of the GBEP common methodological framework, present the clearing house developed on the GBEP web site and discuss possible next steps.

“Version One” of the GBEP common methodological framework

The Task Force co-chairs opened the meeting and presented the draft “Version One” of the “GBEP common methodological framework for GHG lifecycle analysis of bioenergy”, highlighting amendments made from Version Zero. The discussions resulted in two additional suggested revisions to Version One and three decisions including:

1. The final draft “Version One,” reflecting the two additional suggested revisions, will be circulated to Partners and Observers as soon as possible.
2. “Version One” will be uploaded on the “restricted area” of the GBEP web site as soon as possible.
3. After final approval at the forthcoming Steering Committee on 19 November 2010, Version One will be made available on the GBEP website by 1 January 2011 for public consultation and on-line testing.

GBEP GHG Clearing House

As endorsed by the 9th GBEP Steering Committee, the GBEP methodological framework will be integrated into a clearing house tool, under construction on the GBEP web site, in order to allow users to test the framework, compare submissions, exchange documents and studies as well as to learn from other users’ experience.

The Italian Institute of Agricultural Economics (INEA), which committed to develop this tool with the support of the GBEP Secretariat, delivered a brief presentation on the proposed structure and appearance of the clearing house.

The Task Force welcomed the work by INEA and the GBEP Secretariat and agreed that the GBEP Clearing house on GHG methodologies will be not only a useful platform for more effective communication among experts and for comparisons of results on GHG studies, but also a tool to inform users of different methodological approaches and scientific developments. The clearing house will be searchable by questionnaire response (e.g. feedstock) and will also offer statistical information to be generated on the basis of data collected through compiled questionnaires.

One Partner highlighted the importance of translating the methodological framework into additional languages, in order to facilitate its use and dissemination especially in developing countries. The Task Force co-chairs invited GBEP Partners and Observers to provide in-kind assistance for translating the framework into additional languages for publication and use via the GBEP web site.

The Task Force co-chairs also encouraged GBEP members to provide the Secretariat with relevant documents, articles, project descriptions and studies for inclusion on the website, as well as to provide submissions based on national methodologies in order to promote continued growth of the database of compiled questionnaires.

Next steps

The Task Force co-chairs informed all members that several Partners and Observers expressed the importance of and interest in working on capacity-building and awareness-raising activities related to the GBEP methodological framework. The Task Force co-chairs agreed to submit these proposals - and those that will follow in the next month - to the Technical Working Group for consideration within the discussion on the scope and programme of work of the new Task Force in November 2010. The Task Force co-chairs encouraged Partners and Observers to continue submitting these proposals to the GBEP Secretariat.

Timeline

13 October 2010	Final draft of “Version One” circulated among GBEP Partners and Observers for final clearance.
19 November 2010	“Version One” of the GBEP common methodological framework for GHG lifecycle analysis of bioenergy submitted to the 10 th Steering Committee for final approval.