

9th GBEP Steering Committee meeting

Barceló Carthage Thalasso Hotel

La Marsa-Gammarth, Tunis (Tunisia), 7 May 2010

Chair Summary

The 9th Steering Committee meeting of the Global Bioenergy Partnership registered the participation of the following Partners: Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America, FAO, IDB, IEA, UN Foundation, UNEP and UNIDO. Egypt, Indonesia, Mauritania and the African Development Bank (AfDB) participated as Observers.

Opening Remarks

The Steering Committee was opened by welcome address of Mr. Anthony Nyong (Head of the Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Unit of the African Development Bank), who highlighted the relevance of the work that GBEP is undertaking in the definition of sustainability criteria and indicators for bioenergy, for African countries.

GBEP Membership

Argentina, Ghana and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) became Partners by signing the GBEP Terms of Reference.

GBEP Programme of Work

1. GBEP Task Force on Sustainability

The United Kingdom, Chair of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability, updated the Steering Committee on the work of the Task Force. He reported to the Steering Committee that the discussion in the Task Force led to agreement on numerous indicators. In some areas, further discussion would be necessary in order to reach consensus. There were also more fundamental concerns from a small minority of Partners on issues related to food security, government support for bioenergy, trade (including change in foreign exchange balance), land rights and national legal, policy and institutional frameworks. One Partner, in particular, expressed reservations about a large number of indicators that were supported by almost all of the other Partners. Resolution on these topics would be the focus of the Task Force's efforts over the coming months.

The Steering Committee endorsed the work done so far and highlighted the importance of continuing to work to allay existing concerns on topics that were recognized of great importance. The Task Force was invited to continue discussing those topics. There was a commitment from the co-chairs to find ways of addressing appropriately the main issues among Partners, so that an initial report on the GBEP criteria and indicators could be ready by November 2010 for submission to the G20 Summit under the Korean Presidency.

2. GBEP Technical Working Group – Discussion on the new GBEP Task Force

Italy, co-Chair of the Technical Working Group, updated the Steering Committee on the discussion related to the new GBEP Task Force. The 6th and 7th meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) worked on a draft scope and programme of work for the new GBEP Task Force focusing upon three main strategic areas: 1. Facilitate financing of sustainable bioenergy; 2. Capacity building for bioenergy policy-making; 3. Technology cooperation.

In the TWG a consensus emerged on sharing of information on capacity building services related to analytical tools as well as on RD&D in bioenergy seeking opportunities for cooperation. However, agreement was not reached 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 light of this, clear guidance were asked to the Steering Committee 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.

The Steering Committee agreed to start working on the two areas where consensus emerged, but invited the TWG to continue to seek agreement on a more robust programme of work for submission at the next Steering Committee meeting.

The Steering Committee also endorsed the decision of the TWG 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 building country capacity for assessing sustainable bioenergy potential and devising and implementing a strategy for realization of this potential.

3. GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies

The United States of America, co-Chair of the GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies, updated the Steering Committee on the work of the Task Force. In order to disseminate the GBEP Common Methodological Framework and collect more tests and comments, the Task Force agreed to make publicly available the questionnaires compiled so far on the GBEP website, and to establish a clearing-house mechanism in order to allow users to compare across submissions, exchange documents and studies as well as to learn from other users’ experience. This will also aim to provide an easily accessible reference of examples for developing countries when designing life cycle analyses for bioenergy.

The Italian Institute of Agricultural Economics (INEA) kindly committed to develop the clearing-house, with the support of the GBEP Secretariat.

The Task Force will examine the current version of the GBEP methodological framework in the light of the numerous feedbacks received in the testing phase, with the main goal of improving the clarity of the document. “Version one” of the framework is expected by spring 2011.

The Chair of the Steering Committee invited the Task Force to work towards “version one” considering the relevance of the GBEP methodological framework as a useful tool for domestic measurement and reporting purpose under the Copenhagen Accord.

The Steering Committee welcomed the work of the GBEP Task Force on GHG methodologies so far, as well as the proposed next steps.

GBEP programme of work and budget for the next biennium (2011-2012)

The Steering Committee was invited to discuss the GBEP programme of work and budget for the next biennium (2011-2012).

The Steering Committee agreed on the GBEP programme of work on the basis of a proposal co-signed by the GBEP Chair and Co-Chair, and in light of the outcomes of the technical meetings held in the previous days.

Besides recent contributions received in the shape both of direct financial contributions and hospitality of meetings, Partners and Observers were encouraged to provide financial support for GBEP future activities. The Co-Chair was pleased to confirm the commitment of Brazil and Italy to financially contribute and announced that Germany, Netherlands, USA and UN Foundation expressed their interest in doing the same.

GBEP Report to the G8 Summit Canada 2010

An initial draft of the “GBEP Report to the G8 Muskoka Summit 2010” was circulated at the Steering Committee meeting. The draft Report included an overview of the current programme of work and activities of the Global Bioenergy Partnership, in response to the recent G8 mandates. It was announced that a revised version will be circulated by the GBEP Secretariat further to the outcomes of the Tunis meetings and related decisions.

The Steering Committee was invited to promptly submit comments on the revised version, once circulated, in order to finalize it by mid June 2010, for submission to the G8 Leaders through the GBEP Chair and G8 Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas.

Next steps

- **GBEP Report to the G8 Muskoka Summit 2010 - Partners were invited to promptly submit comments on the revised version, once circulated.** In light of these comments, the Secretariat will circulate the version to be approved by mid June 2010 and forward it to the G8 Summit.
- **9th Task Force on Sustainability and 8th Task Force on GHG Methodologies** (pending confirmation) – Rome (FAO Headquarters), 29 September - 1 October 2010. Further details will be provided by the GBEP Secretariat in due course.
- **GBEP side event to be organized during the DIREC 2010** (Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference) in cooperation with the Government of India – Delhi, 27-29 October 2010. GBEP Partners and Observers are kindly invited to participate. Further details will be provided by the GBEP Secretariat in due course.
- **10th GBEP Steering Committee meeting** – Rome (FAO Headquarters), 26 November 2010. Task Forces and TWG meetings will be held prior to the Steering Committee meeting (23-25 November 2010). Further details will be provided by the GBEP Secretariat in due course.