

1st meeting of the GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)

Tokyo International Forum

Tokyo, 16 November 2011

Co-Chairs conclusions

The GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB) held its 1st meeting on 16 November 2011 in Tokyo, kindly hosted by the Government of Japan. Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, Paraguay, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand, United States of America, Viet Nam, ADB, ECOWAS, European Commission, FAO, IDB, IEA, IRENA and UNEP participated in the meeting. The meeting was opened by Brazil and Italy, nominated co-chairs *ad interim* by the 11th Steering Committee meeting (May 2011).

Presentations

The Working Group received a number of interesting presentations of Partners and Observers on ongoing capacity building activities in the field of sustainable bioenergy, specifically from FAO, UNEP, IRENA, Brazil, Germany, The Netherlands, USA, Ghana (on behalf of the African countries), ECOWAS, Japan and the Asian Development Bank.

FAO and UNEP gave an overview of their approach and key activities related to bioenergy, including the Decision Support Tool developed in cooperation, within the UN-Energy. IRENA presented its programme of work related to capacity building and proposed possible areas of cooperation. Brazil gave an overview of its national ethanol production (also in terms of contribution to the world energy mix) as well as of the very active international cooperation in bioenergy-related field. Germany presented some views on requirements for capacity building in the field of bioenergy and related experiences of ongoing projects. The Netherlands presented their respective national production systems and policies related to bioenergy in place to meet the European Directive on Renewable Energy, and focused on the wide range of international cooperation projects and activities in the field of bioenergy. The United States highlighted the total biomass potential of the country to meet commitments under domestic legislation with a view to enhance energy security and economic growth, and discussed domestic and international activities to promote sustainable modern bioenergy. Ghana, on behalf of the African countries participating in GBEP, gave an overview of the bioenergy potential of Africa and the need for cooperation to transform this potential into opportunities. ECOWAS highlighted the importance of raising awareness of senior policy makers on bioenergy opportunities, as well as the need for data collection and training activities to facilitate modern and sustainable bioenergy practices. Japan presented the project related to the promotion of the biomass town concept in East Asia. Finally ADB gave an overview of the bank's regional cooperation programme and policies to support an efficient utilization of biomass to address poverty while enhancing energy and food security.

Additional presentations on indicator piloting activities were given. In particular, Germany briefly presented a one year piloting project of GBEP indicators in Colombia and Indonesia

recently started (to be implemented by FAO and funded by the Federal Ministry of Environment); The Netherlands announced the funding of a piloting project of GBEP indicators in Ghana and ECOWAS region; and Japan presented results of the piloting of GBEP indicators at the national level. The Working Group particularly welcomed the presentation of Japan, first GBEP Partner that piloted GBEP indicators. In addition, the United States presented the recent grant agreement that was signed with the GBEP Secretariat to fund at least three different activities under the Working Group on Capacity Building, including the initial forum with ECOWAS and at least eight partners in West Africa.

Presentations given during the Working Group are available on the GBEP website.

Co-Chairmanship

The Working Group welcomed and agreed on the co-chairmanship of The Netherlands and the United States for the next two years, in accordance with the WGCB scope and programme of work.

Activity Groups

The Working Group raised several proposals for capacity building projects and activities to be undertaken. In light of this discussion and related proposals, the Working Group agreed to establish three Activity Groups:

1. ***West African Regional Forum on Sustainable Modern Bioenergy*** (proposed by the U.S. in cooperation with other members);
2. ***Raising awareness, and sharing of data and experience on the implementation of GBEP indicators*** (proposed by Germany and supported by other members); and
3. ***Study tour for capacity building and training*** (proposed by Brazil and supported by other members).

The Working Group highlighted also the importance of a further activity related to the communication/spread of information on the GBEP work and specifically on the sustainability indicators and related report. The Working Group suggested dealing with this activity in a horizontal manner in light of the fact that it is cross-cutting to the whole GBEP programme of work. The Co-Chairs will gather some ideas on a way forward on a communications strategy and will send forth for Partners to consider. The GBEP Secretariat will continue to be the coordinator of GBEP communications and activities.

The Working Group suggested Activity Groups to be co-led by at least two members, and to work mainly via e-mails and teleconferences.

Next steps

- ***By 12 December 2011 – Suggestions to develop a template for new Activity Groups***
Members of the Working Group were invited to send to the GBEP Secretariat examples of project information sheets or other relevant ways to describe future Activity Group proposals. Based on this information the Secretariat and the Co-Chairs will prepare a document that could be used as a template for a description of new Activity Groups.
- ***By 16 December 2011 - More detailed proposals for each established Activity Group***

Members that proposed the three Activity Groups are invited to submit to the GBEP Secretariat more detailed project/activity proposals for circulation among the members of the WGCB. This will allow Activity Groups to start working promptly.

- ***By 16 December 2011 - Membership in the Activity Groups expressed to the GBEP Sec.***
Members of the WGCB are invited to inform the GBEP Secretariat of their interest in joining one or more Activity Groups.
- ***By the end of February 2012 - Further proposals for new Activity Groups***
Members of the WGCB are invited to submit further proposals for capacity building projects and activities to the GBEP Secretariat for discussion at the 2nd WGCB (June 2012).