

GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building (WGCB)

Draft Scope and Programme of Work

3 March 2011

The 8th Technical Working Group of the Global Bioenergy Partnership is invited to consider the revised scope and programme of work set out below for a new Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy for submission to the 11th Steering Committee Meeting in May 2011. The input and comments provided by Partners and Observers at the 6th and 7th Technical Working Group meetings in The Hague and Tunis, respectively, have informed this revised document.

The G8 leaders tasked the Global Bioenergy Partnership to promote the development and deployment of bioenergy. Sustainable development and deployment of bioenergy will advance the following goals: (1) mitigating climate change, (2) reducing atmospheric pollution, (3) increasing energy security, and (4) promoting development by encouraging investment, improving infrastructure, and increasing productivity and access to markets. By involving national governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders, GBEP provides a forum for guiding and promoting these discussions through technical cooperation and capacity building on the sustainable development and deployment of bioenergy.

Purpose:

Building on GBEP's Terms of Reference adopted on May 11, 2006, the purpose of this Working Group on Capacity Building (WGCB) is to take a holistic approach to bioenergy development and support wider, cost-effective biomass and biofuels deployment, particularly in developing countries. This purpose will be achieved through dialogue and cooperation between and among GBEP Partners and Observers; national and sub-national governments; research institutes; intergovernmental, international, and non-governmental organizations; and private sector entities. Through this effort, interested entities will voluntarily partner to develop and implement projects intended to build capacity for enhanced deployment of bioenergy, including feasibility studies for market building activities, in cooperation with interested developing countries. Cooperative activities should focus on priorities and areas of relevance for developing countries, but should not be limited to developing countries or to North-South cooperation.

Scope of Work:

The scope of work for the new Working Group will focus on, but not be limited to, practices for sustainable bioenergy development and deployment, and on assessments of bioenergy resources. These activities will be implemented on the basis of voluntary financial contributions and therefore availability of funds. The WGCB will provide a forum for technical cooperation and capacity building through sharing information, stimulating discussion, and identifying opportunities for cooperation among and between public and private entities with relevant

experience and resources related to sustainable bioenergy development and deployment. Working with the GBEP Secretariat, the WGCB will focus on identifying and disseminating information about existing tools and resources available from both the public and private sources and facilitating appropriate linkages between them. The WGCB will strive to complement but not duplicate the work of other initiatives within GBEP, other multilateral groups, or other international organizations. The main role of the WGCB will be twofold. First, the WGCB will receive capacity building project proposals and follow-up on the work. Second, the WGCB will receive the reports of the Project Teams and report the results to the Steering Committee of GBEP.

Membership:

Membership in the Working Group on Capacity Building is voluntary and is open to all interested GBEP Partners and Observers. One or more Members of the WGCB may propose individual projects that are open to participation by all Members, Partners, Observers, and other stakeholders. Participation in a project is voluntary and involves providing support and resources – financial and/or in-kind – and will be decided on a case-by-case basis. The GBEP Secretariat role will continue to be dependent on the availability of funds. Once a project is presented, either through a meeting or electronically, by a Member or Members to the WGCB and sufficient interest is expressed by other Members, Partners, Observers, and/or stakeholders, then a Project Team will be formed to carry out that specific capacity building project. Membership in a Project Team is likewise voluntary, and is also open to all interested GBEP Partners and Observers, other countries, international organizations, and stakeholders.

The work of a Project Team, whenever possible, will include the participation of key stakeholders, including national government officials, industry and civil society representatives, and relevant international decision-making bodies and institutions. Particular efforts will be made to secure the engagement of traditional biomass-producing developing countries and emerging economies.

One or two Members of the WGCB will Chair or co-Chair the Working Group for a two-year period. This period can be renewed by agreement of the Members of the WGCB. The Project Team will follow a similar process to determine the Chair or co-Chairs from among its Members. The WGCB and the Project Teams will determine their own meeting schedules, as appropriate for their workload and circumstances.

Programme of Work:

The WGCB programme of work consists of all projects to be carried out by the Project Teams. A Project Team reports regularly to the WGCB, which then reports directly to the Steering Committee of the Partnership. The WGCB will work with the GBEP Secretariat, as appropriate, to carry out some of its activities and functions, including coordinating, planning, and organizing meetings, experts, documents, and information. Any Member of the WGCB can propose an idea for a project, including formally through the Secretariat, for review and approval by the WGCB.

A Project Team will determine its own procedures, including the frequency and location of meetings and the work plan envisaged for achievement of each output. The WGCB and Project Teams, with the help of the Secretariat, will also raise awareness of its work and outputs in order to educate consumers and increase the public awareness of the benefits of bioenergy.

Project Team Initiation:

Interested parties, with the assistance of the Secretariat, if necessary, should prepare and circulate to the WGCB Members for their consideration a project proposal. This proposal can be followed by a more detailed presentation to the WGCB, as appropriate and necessary. The WGCB will consider each proposed project to ensure that it meets the overall goals and objectives of GBEP. All GBEP Partners and Observers are eligible to join a Project Team and to provide in-kind and/or financial support to the project. A minimum of two GBEP Partners and/or Observers are required to participate in order to form a Project Team.

The WGCB can exchange and review project proposals via electronic mail, teleconference, or video conference, as a complement to in-person meetings. A Project Team will provide timely updates, as appropriate, to the WGCB on the progress of a project and will present the project's results and deliverables to the WGCB and the Partnership. In the absence of a formal in-person meeting, the WGCB can preliminarily receive a project proposal so that work can begin before a formal meeting takes place.

Project Elements:

Each project will be managed by a Project Team, consisting of representatives from those Members that choose to volunteer to participate and provide in kind and/or financial support.

Each project will yield results that are relevant to GBEP Partners and will facilitate the achievement of the overall goal of developing and promoting bioenergy markets. The Project Team will communicate project results and best practices to the WGCB, which will in turn communicate these results to the Steering Committee. Once the Steering Committee has received the results, the GBEP Secretariat will disseminate this information to all interested parties, including other Partners and Observers. The specific means of support for individual projects will be determined on a case-by-case basis by those cooperating together on that project.

In accordance with the GBEP Terms of Reference, all matters related to intellectual property and the treatment thereof arising from cooperative activities of the WGCB and/or Project Team will be addressed on a case-by-case basis within the specific context in which they appear, bearing in mind the purposes of the overall Partnership. In addition, issues relating to trade or tariffs should be raised in other appropriate multilateral, regional, or bilateral fora.