

Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)

GBEP's contribution to building international consensus on sustainable bioenergy

**Symposium on the sustainability of biofuels:
dialogue between policy-makers and stakeholders**

Tokyo, 5 February 2011

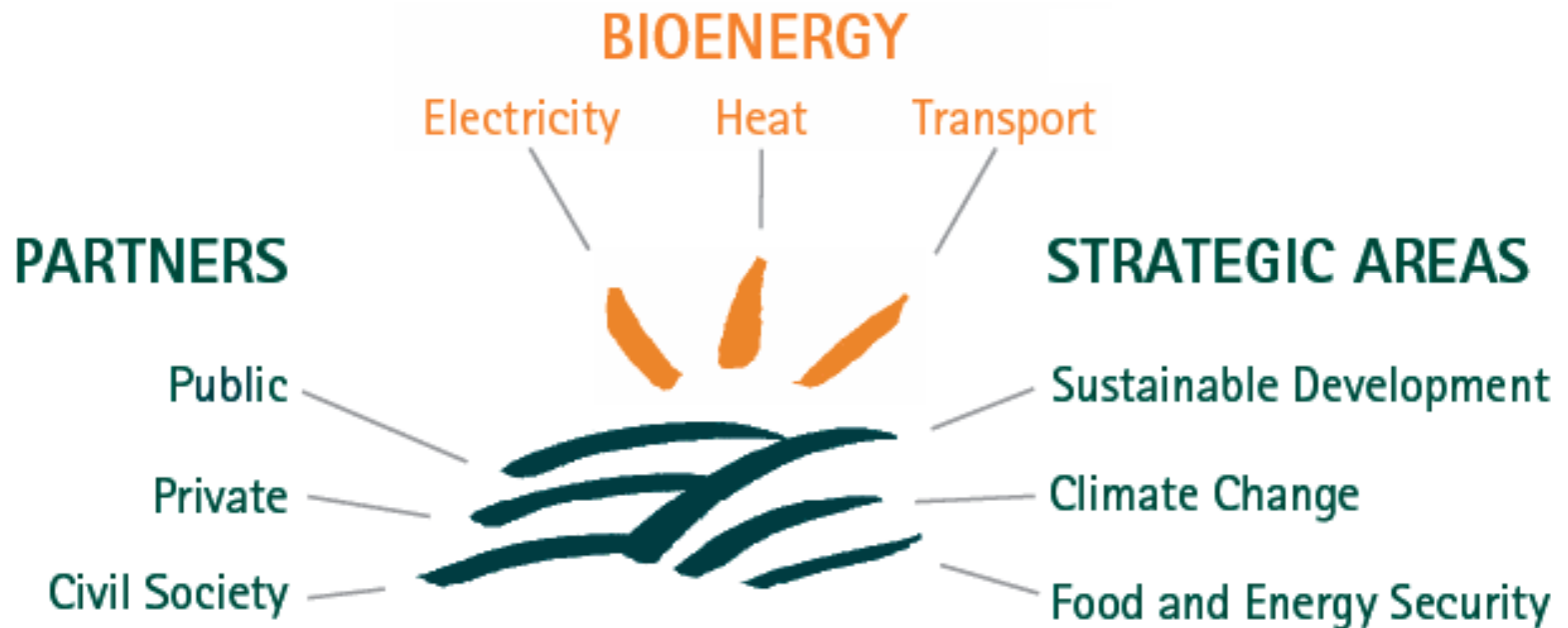
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THE GLOBAL BIOENERGY PARTNERSHIP



G8 COMMITMENTS AND MANDATES

2005 Gleneagles Plan of Action:

- “We (the G8) will promote the continued development and commercialisation of renewable energy by: [...] d) launching a **Global Bioenergy Partnership** to support wider, cost effective, biomass and biofuels deployment, particularly in developing countries where biomass use is prevalent”.

2007 Heiligendamm Summit Declaration:

- “We invite the **Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)** to continue its work on biofuel best practices and take forward the successful and sustainable development of bioenergy”

2008 Hokkaido Toyako Summit:

- “We support the work of the **Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)** and invite it to work with other relevant stakeholders to develop science-based benchmarks and indicators for biofuels production and use”

2009 L’Aquila Summit:

- “We[...]invite GBEP to accelerate its work in developing science-based benchmarks and indicators for sustainable biofuel production and to boost technological cooperation and innovation in bioenergy”

2010 Muskoka Summit:

- “We welcome the work of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) and commit to facilitating swift adoption of voluntary sustainability criteria and indicators, as well as [agreement] on capacity building activities“

18 January 2007 - GBEP was registered as a
CSD Partnership for Sustainable Development

GBEP PARTNERS AND OBSERVERS

35 Partners (23 governments – 12 organizations):

G8 Governments (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States of America) plus Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Fiji Islands, Ghana, Mauritania, Mexico, Netherlands, Paraguay, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland and Tanzania, as well as the European Commission, FAO, IADB, IEA, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UN Foundation, World Council for Renewable Energy and EUBIA.

32 Observers (22 governments – 10 organizations):

Angola, Australia, Austria, Chile, Egypt, El Salvador, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Mozambique, Norway, Peru, Rwanda, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia and Vietnam, along with the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, ECLAC, ECOWAS, European Environment Agency, IFAD, IRENA, UEMOA, World Bank, and the WBCSD.

Italy and Brazil are currently Chair and co-Chair of the Partnership.

The Secretariat is hosted at the FAO in Rome.

GBEP: THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSION FORUM FOR BIOENERGY

GBEP is a forum where voluntary cooperation works towards consensus amongst governments, intergovernmental organizations and other partners in the areas of the sustainable development of bioenergy and its contribution to climate change mitigation. It also provides a platform for sharing information and examples of good practice.

GBEP is unique in bringing a large number of national governments together specifically to discuss bioenergy issues of international relevance. It is informal enough to allow open discussion yet formal enough to yield meaningful results.

One of GBEP's roles is to help build synergies between ongoing international bioenergy initiatives and avoid unnecessary duplication.

GBEP'S OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Global Bioenergy Partnership are to:

- promote global high-level policy dialogue on bioenergy and facilitate international cooperation;
- support national and regional bioenergy policy-making and market development;
- favour the transformation of biomass use towards more efficient and sustainable practices;
- foster exchange of information, skills and technologies through bilateral and multilateral collaboration; and
- facilitate bioenergy integration into energy markets by tackling barriers in the supply chain.

GBEP PROGRAMME OF WORK

GBEP's current priorities are:

- 1. Facilitating the sustainable development of bioenergy** (Task Force on Sustainability);
- 2. Piloting of the GBEP Common methodological framework on GHG emission reduction measurement from the use of bioenergy** (Task Force on GHG Methodologies); and
- 3. Raising awareness and facilitating information exchange on bioenergy.**

GBEP is now discussing a potential new Task Force to facilitate **Capacity Building and Technology Cooperation for Sustainable Bioenergy.**

GBEP TASK FORCE ON SUSTAINABILITY

GBEP TF ON SUSTAINABILITY: BACKGROUND

Task Force established in June 2008 - Led by the UK until October 2010.
Currently led by Sweden.

SCOPE

- **To provide relevant, practical, science-based, voluntary sustainability criteria and indicators to guide any analysis undertaken of bioenergy at the domestic level.**
- **To be used with a view to informing decision making and facilitating the sustainable development of bioenergy and not to be applied so as to limit trade in bioenergy in a manner inconsistent with multilateral trade obligations.**

WHAT MAKES THIS WORK UNIQUE

The uniqueness of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability lies in the fact that :

- it is currently the only initiative seeking to **build consensus among a broad range of national governments and international institutions on the sustainability of bioenergy**;
- the emphasis is on providing **science-based measurements useful for informing national-level policy analysis and development** (in contrast to sustainability schemes recently developed by others, primarily designed for application at the project or economic operator level);
- **it doesn't have directions, thresholds or limits and do not constitute a standard; nor are they legally binding on GBEP Partners in any way.** Measured over time, the indicators will show progress towards or away from a sustainable development path as determined nationally;
- it addresses **all forms of bioenergy**, rather than just liquid biofuels.

PROGRESS

- In 2008, the Task Force provisionally agreed criteria and established three sub-groups to lead the work on indicators:
 - Environmental (co-led by Germany and UNEP),
 - Social (led by FAO) and
 - Economic and Energy Security (co-led by IEA and UN Foundation)
- Task Force held its 10th Meeting in Rome, 16-18 November 2010
- Discussion to date has led to a high degree of provisional agreement on the majority of indicators included in the Environmental, Social, and Economic and Energy Security baskets, while further discussion is still required on national legal, policy and institutional frameworks and a couple of indicators.

ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

Provisionally
agreed
indicators
cover:

- GHG emissions,
- soil quality,
- harvest levels of wood resources,
- emissions of non-GHG pollutants,
- water use and efficiency,
- water quality,
- biological diversity,
- land-use change, including indirect effects.

SOCIAL INDICATORS

Provisionally
agreed indicators
cover:

- Change in income,
- Jobs in the bioenergy sector,
- change in unpaid time spent by women and children collecting biomass,
- bioenergy used to expand access to modern energy services,
- change in mortality and burden of disease attributable to indoor smoke,
- incidence of occupational injury, illness and fatalities.

Issues where there
is willingness to
reach a consensus
and further
discussion is still
required:

- food security,
- access to land, water and other natural resources.

ECONOMIC AND ENERGY SECURITY INDICATORS

Provisionally
agreed
indicators
cover:

- productivity,
- net energy balance,
- gross value added,
- change in consumption of fossil fuels,
- training and re-qualification of the workforce,
- energy diversity,
- infrastructure and logistics for distribution of bioenergy,
- capacity and flexibility of use of bioenergy.

TF ON SUSTAINABILITY - NEXT STEPS

The Task Force has achieved much in the last two years but there is still a large amount of work to do. In the coming months it will:

- seek **agreement on an initial set of indicators**;
- refine the supporting information for the indicators, such as **descriptions of methodological approaches** for their measurement;
- **prepare a report** that would include a set of indicators and supporting text;
- give further consideration to how the work can be **disseminated** by consulting a wide range of interested parties and stakeholders, including through further outreach activities; and
- **explore possibilities for piloting** the agreed indicators and identifying suitable examples of sustainable bioenergy in action, linked to the agreed indicators, for dissemination.

GBEP TASK FORCE ON GHG METHODOLOGIES

GBEP TASK FORCE ON GHG METHODOLOGIES: BACKGROUND

- October 2007 – TF established under the co-leadership of the United States and the UN Foundation
- June 2009 – TF developed and published the “GBEP common methodological framework for GHG lifecycle analysis of bioenergy – Version Zero” intended to guide policy makers and stakeholders when assessing GHG emissions associated with bioenergy, and to be used as a tool for comparing the results of various methodologies when assessing GHG emissions from bioenergy systems, for communicating the results in a transparent way and also building capacity in GHG lifecycle analysis (LCA) for bioenergy.
- October 2010 – TF finalized the “GBEP common methodological framework for GHG lifecycle analysis of bioenergy – Version One”, after dissemination, testing and improvement of the previous version.
- January 2011 – Clearing house on GHG methodologies up and running on the GBEP website. It sets a platform to exchange information on the implementation and testing of the “GBEP common methodological framework for GHG lifecycle analysis of bioenergy” and to allow users to share documents and studies as well as to learn from other users’ experience. It also allows you to test the methodological framework on line.

GBEP COMMON METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR GHG LCA OF BIOENERGY

The methodological framework is a checklist that comprises ten steps in the full lifecycle analysis of GHG emissions from bioenergy production and use:

1. GHGs covered
2. Source of biomass
3. Land-use changes due to bioenergy production
4. Biomass feedstock production
5. Transport of biomass
6. Processing into fuel
7. By-products and co-products
8. Transport of fuel
9. Fuel Use
10. Comparison with replaced fuel

For each step, a set of questions was developed to ascertain which sources of emissions (or sinks) were considered and through which methods, and which assumptions were made.

COUNTRIES FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION WORKING IN GBEP

Several countries from the Asia-Pacific region are already participating in GBEP as Partners or Observers. Japan is a Partner since the GBEP official launch in 2006.

We hope to welcome officials and experts from across the Asia-Pacific region, in particular to ensure the perspectives of these countries are built into the international definition of the most important aspects of the sustainability of bioenergy production and use and of a framework to enable these aspects to be measured in order to guide policy development. Also a chance to exchange good practices in bioenergy production, use and policy-making.

For further information

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