

13th Meeting of the GBEP Steering Committee

Rio de Janeiro, HSBC Arena, 19 June 2012

Co-Chairs Summary

The 13th Steering Committee meeting of the Global Bioenergy Partnership was held in Rio de Janeiro on 19 June 2012, kindly hosted by the Government of Brazil back to back with the Rio+20 UNCSO Conference. Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Paraguay, Sudan, United States of America, Viet Nam, ECOWAS, EUBIA, IDB, OAS, UN Foundation and UNEP participated in the meeting. The meeting was co-chaired by Italy and Brazil.

Welcome speech

The Steering Committee was opened by welcome speech of Ambassador José Vicente de Sá Pimentel, President of the Alexandre de Gusmão Foundation (FUNAG), Ministry of External Relations, Brazil. The importance to facilitate sustainable development of bioenergy was highlighted and the gentle offer to host a Seminar in Brazil next year to this end was stated.

GBEP Membership

The Steering Committee welcomed Indonesia, Vietnam and OAS participating as Observers. The Steering Committee particularly welcomed Denmark as new GBEP Observer in light of the willingness expressed by H.E. Martin Lidegaard, Minister of Climate Energy and Building of Denmark, during the GBEP Seminar the day before.

GBEP Programme of Work

1. “The Global Bioenergy Partnership sustainability indicators for bioenergy” Report

The GBEP Secretariat informed the Steering Committee that the report “The Global Bioenergy Partnership sustainability indicators for bioenergy” was printed in different formats thank to the generous financial contributions of various GBEP Partners.

The Steering Committee welcomed the work of the Secretariat on this matter highlighting the importance of these communication tools in order to strengthen the visibility of GBEP works and added value all over the world.

2. Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)

The Netherlands and US, co-Chairs of the Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy, informed the Steering Committee on the results of the 2nd meeting of the WGCB:

- **Activity Group 1 - “Regional Forums/Workshops on Sustainable Modern Bioenergy”** (first and second activity co-led by United States of America and ECOWAS)

The Activity Group 1, after the successful “ECOWAS Regional Bioenergy Forum” held in Mali in March 2012 that initiated a regional dialogue to support ECOWAS Member States in developing regional and national bioenergy strategies, will host a follow-up workshop in the fall of 2012 to be focused on resource assessments and mapping to promote effective policy planning for a sustainable bioenergy sector in West Africa.

- **Activity Group 2 - “Raising awareness, and sharing of data and experience on the implementation of the GBEP indicators”** (co-led by Germany and Indonesia)
The scope of work of Activity Group 2 was discussed and adopted by the WGCB. The Working Group supported the creation of a *discussion forum* in the “intranet” section of the GBEP website, as well as of a *data platform* in the WGCB section of the GBEP website in order to respectively facilitate discussion and store relevant documents for the activity group. The data platform was considered to be a useful communication tool for all other activity groups as well.
- **Activity Group 3 - “Study Tour for capacity building and training”** (led by Brazil)
The objective and scope of work of Activity Group 3 was presented. It aims at fostering exchange of information, skills and technologies through bilateral and multilateral collaboration, in short courses with specific themes of sustainable production and use of bioenergy, where effective policy frameworks may be discussed, taking into account the 24 indicators of sustainability approved by GBEP. Further discussions were considered needed to finalize the scope of work and an e-group was established to this end.
- **The creation of a new Activity Group to be focused on woody bioenergy** was discussed. UN Foundation, FAO and UNEP were invited to develop a proposal/scope of work with a view to discuss and approve it at the next WGCB.
- WGCB recommend an ***exchange of letters of GBEP with the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (GACC), as well as with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in order to strengthen mutual cooperation.***
- **WGCB co-chairs** will share ideas on “communication strategy” for discussion at the next WGCB.

The Steering Committee endorsed the way forward discussed and agreed by the Working Group.

GBEP programme of work and funding arrangements

The GBEP Chair stressed the added value of GBEP activities as a tool to achieve the “Green Economy” and “Energy” commitments just agreed in the Rio+20 Declaration.

The GBEP Secretariat informed the Steering Committee regarding the expenditures of GBEP in the last year and presented the required budget for future GBEP activities. Partners and Observers were invited to continue contributing both financially and in-kind to the GBEP’s future activities and programme of work. In this context special thanks were expressed to Partners and Observers that recently contributed, in particular to Brazil for hosting the GBEP meetings in Rio de Janeiro. Several Partners expressed their willingness to continue contributing to GBEP activities both financially and through projects.

GBEP Report to the G8 and G20 Summits 2012 – G8 and G20 mandates

It was confirmed to the Steering Committee that a Report on GBEP activities and recent achievements was submitted both to the G8 and G20 Leaders.

Appreciation was expressed for the renewed mandate and strengthen support that GBEP received from the G8 Heads of State and Government during the G8 Summit 2012. Looking forward to a renewed mandate from the G20 Leaders, the Steering Committee was invited to strengthen its contribution towards a stronger linkage between GBEP and the G8, and the G20.

Next steps

- **14th GBEP Steering Committee meeting to take place in Rome (FAO Headquarters) in November 2012.** It will be preceded by the following GBEP events:
 - *“ECOWAS-GBEP workshop on Bioenergy Resource Assessment and Mapping”*
 - *Seminar on “Sharing data and experience on the implementation of the GBEP indicators”*
 - *Preparatory seminar on “Study Tour for capacity building and training”*
 - *Field trip* (to be confirmed)
 - *3rd Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)*

Exact dates and programme to be communicated in due course.

- **15th GBEP Steering Committee meeting** to take place in May 2013 (last week of May), kindly hosted by the Government of Germany. Further details will follow in due time.