

## **14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the GBEP Steering Committee**

*FAO Headquarters – King Faisal Room*  
Rome, 16 November 2012

### **Co-Chairs Summary**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting of the Global Bioenergy Partnership was held in Rome, FAO Headquarters, on 16 November 2012. Argentina, Brazil, Denmark, Egypt, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Paraguay, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, Viet Nam, ECOWAS, FAO, IRENA, OAS, UN Foundation, UNEP and the World Bank participated in the meeting as Partners and Observers. Representatives of the ECOWAS region, specifically from Benin, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo also participated as special guests. The meeting was chaired by Brazil.

### **Welcome speech**

The Steering Committee was opened by welcome speech of Mr Alexander Müller, Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department of FAO. He highlighted the importance of pursuing sustainable bioenergy development, and the need of exchanging experiences and field work to this end.

### **GBEP Membership and Chairmanship**

The Steering Committee welcomed the representatives of the Countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) participating as special guests, as well as Denmark and Zimbabwe as new GBEP Observers.

The Steering Committee agreed on the extension of the current chairmanship of Italy and Brazil for the next biennium (2013-2014). Minister Corrado Clini, Chair of GBEP, was not able to participate due to an unexpected meeting of the Prime Minister Cabinet of Italy, however was keen to send a message to confirm the strong commitment of Italy to the future work of GBEP.

### **GBEP Programme of Work**

#### **Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)**

The Netherlands and the United States, co-Chairs of the Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy, informed the Steering Committee on the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, hosted a follow-up workshop in Rome (13-14 November 2012), prior to the Steering Committee, 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 Activity Group 2 organized a workshop in Rome (15 November 2012) to share very interesting experiences and lessons learned from the pilot testing of the GBEP indicators in some countries: Ghana, Germany, Indonesia and Colombia. The Working Group invited participants to make best use of the *discussion forum* available on the GBEP website as a powerful tool for sharing data and experiences on the implementation of the indicators. The further development of the *data platform* on the GBEP website was also highlighted, in order to store relevant documents for the activity group to be provided by Partners and Observers.
- **Activity Group 3 - “Study Tour for capacity building and training”** (led by Brazil)  
 The Activity Group 3 organized a workshop in Rome (15 November 2012) to initiate an exchange of information on sustainable bioenergy experiences, in preparation of the “study tour/bioenergy week” to be held in Brasilia on 11-15 March 2013. The study tour will consist of short training courses analyzing technical and public policy aspects of bioenergy development. Bioenergy technology and knowhow will be shared through fieldtrips to biodiesel and bioethanol plants. The Working Group endorsed the establishment of the Activity Group 3 and the proposed next steps.
- **New Activity Group 4 – “Towards sustainable modern wood energy development”**  
 FAO, UNEP and UN Foundation developed a draft scope of work submitted to the WGCB. The complexity of the issue was presented and discussed, in particular with reference to the potential focus of the Activity Group: traditional use of woody biomass; and/or woody biomass for large scale modern bioenergy. Further discussions were considered needed to finalize the scope of work with a view to approve it at the next WGCB.
- **New Activity Group 5 – “The Global Renewable Energy Atlas”**  
 IRENA submitted a draft scope of work, presented and discussed during the WGCB. The main outcome of the proposed Activity Group would be the development of a single joint platform providing free and open access to the most advanced datasets and tools, to help countries willing to initiate the assessment of their renewable potentials. The Internet-based platform would provide high quality resource maps from leading technical institutes worldwide, and simplified models for evaluating the technical information. Further discussions were considered needed to finalize the scope of work with a view to approve it at the next WGCB.
- **Communication Strategy**  
 A background paper was discussed during the WGCB with the main objectives of strengthening GBEP communication activities, further raising its profile, and strengthening GBEP relationships with other international institutions to streamline common activities and consequently maximise their efficiency and effectiveness. In light of the very fruitful discussion, participants were invited to send suggestions and comments on how to strengthen the GBEP communication, including expression of support both financially and in-kind (secondment of staff to the GBEP Secretariat based in FAO was specifically mentioned).

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

### **GBEP programme of work and funding arrangements**

In light of the implementing GBEP programme of work, discussed and agreed by the Steering Committee, Partners and Observers were invited to continue contributing both financially and in-kind to the GBEP Secretariat and to GBEP's future activities. Some Partners already expressed their willingness to financially contribute to GBEP activities and the Co-Chair invited other Partners and Observers to do the same. Secondment of staff to the GBEP Secretariat was also indicated as an important possible contribution to the day-to-day activities of the Partnership.

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, as well as the Governments of USA that in cooperation with Brazil, Italy, The Netherlands and ECOWAS financially supported the GBEP meetings in Rome, together with FAO as hosting organization.

### **Next steps**

- ✓ ***By 7 December 2012 – Provide the GBEP Secretariat with contributions*** on the followings:
  - Agenda of the “Study tour/Bioenergy week” to take place in Embrapa Agroenergy, in Brasilia, from 11 to 15 March 2013 (Activity Group 3). Suggestions on themes to be discussed during the “Study tour/Bioenergy week”, as well as indication of potential speakers sharing experiences and lessons learned on the sustainable development of bioenergy around the world were kindly requested;
  - Activity Group 4 “Towards sustainable modern wood energy development”. Suggestions and comments on the focus of this Activity Group (traditional wood use and woody biomass for large scale modern bioenergy) were kindly requested;
  - Scope of work of the Activity Group 5 “The Global Renewable Energy Atlas – Biomass Component”. Suggestions and comments on the scope of work of this Activity Group were kindly requested.
  - Communication strategy. Suggestions and comments on the background paper, including expression of support both financially and in-kind (through secondment of staff to the GBEP Secretariat based in FAO Headquarters) were kindly invited.
- ✓ ***15<sup>th</sup> GBEP Steering Committee meeting to take place in Berlin on 28-31 May 2013, kindly hosted by the Government of Germany.*** It will be preceded by the 4<sup>th</sup> WGCB and other technical events. The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.