

**2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building  
for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)  
Rio de Janeiro, HSBC Arena, 19 June 2012**

**Co-Chairs Conclusions**

The GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB) held its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on 19 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, kindly hosted by the Government of Brazil back to back with the Rio+20 UNCSD 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 The Netherlands and the United States of America.

**Activity Group 1 - “Regional Forums/Workshops on Sustainable Modern Bioenergy”**

ECOWAS and USA, co-leaders of the first activity of Activity Group 1, updated the Working Group on the results of the first activity and on the proposal for the second activity of the Group, which will also target the 15 Member States of ECOWAS.

- ✓ On 19-21 March 2012 the GBEP Activity Group 1 organized the “*ECOWAS Regional Bioenergy Forum*” in Bamako, Mali, in collaboration with the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), to initiate a regional dialogue and peer-to-peer learning to support ECOWAS Member States in developing regional and national bioenergy strategies, which will help meet energy needs and create a vibrant and sustainable modern bioenergy sector that promotes economic growth, rural development, and poverty alleviation.

The Forum presented new methods and information developed by GBEP Partners and Observers on assessing the economic, environmental and social benefits and challenges of modern bioenergy. Special emphasis was given to the means to promote simultaneously food and energy security and the possibility of alleviating the negative health and environmental effects that derive from the unsustainable traditional use of biomass fuelwood for cooking. Furthermore, the Forum provided concrete examples of success stories from Africa and presented policy tools from UNEP, FAO and the Global Bioenergy Partnership that can promote the creation of a sustainable bioenergy sector that can drive economic growth without harming, but improving environmental and social conditions.

The Forum contributed to building consensus among the various segments of society in ECOWAS member states, namely policy makers and officials from the Ministries of Energy, Agriculture and Environment, private sector individuals, civil society representatives, and the general public, to develop a framework to broaden and accelerate the development and deployment of sustainable modern bioenergy.

- ✓ The Activity Group 1 proposed to host a follow-up workshop in the fall of 2012 to focus on bioenergy resource assessments and mapping to promote effective policy planning for a sustainable bioenergy sector in West Africa. The resource assessments and mapping should be broad in their approach and cover natural resources such as land use, soil and water, environment and ecological systems, climate and weather characteristics. The potential for waste and residue streams to be sources of biomass should be assessed. In addition, these biophysical characteristics should be considered with socio-economic information such as population demographics and infrastructure. The assessment results should translate into agro-ecological, socio-economic zoning maps that indicate areas suitable and available for

bioenergy development and specify the relevant feedstock options. The mapping should also indicate the areas currently used for different types of agricultural production.

The Working Group highly appreciated the results of the Bamako Forum and exchanged views and opportunities to contribute to the next workshop. The Working Group approved the proposal for an “ECOWAS-GBEP workshop on Bioenergy Resource Assessment and Mapping” to be held in fall of 2012 and suggested to establish a vibrant e-group to facilitate the preparation of this workshop. The Secretariat was invited to continue collecting expressions of interest in joining the e-group as well as in financially contributing to the preparation of the workshop.

### **Activity Group 2 - “Raising awareness, and sharing of data and experience on the implementation of the GBEP indicators”**

Germany, co-leader of Activity Group 2 together with Indonesia, presented the scope of work, objective and progress report from this activity group.

Main objectives of Activity Group 2 are to: learn from the experience of using GBEP indicators in the field, in different countries with different circumstances in climate, biodiversity, social and economic conditions; share knowledge and information in order to overcome problems, find solutions and improve the methodological application of the indicators; secure a common interpretation of the indicators; and raise awareness of GBEP sustainability indicators as a valuable tool that should be introduced to other countries and regions.

The Working Group discussed and adopted the scope of work of Activity Group 2 supported by many interventions and exchanged views on how to better cooperate towards its objectives, including with a seminar to be organized back to back to the next GBEP meetings. A number of Partners that were not previously included in the Activity Group indicated their interest in joining. The Working Group supported the creation of a *discussion forum* in the “intranet” section of the GBEP website, as well as a *data platform* in the WGCB section of the GBEP website in order to respectively facilitate discussion and store relevant documents for activity group. The data platform was considered to be a useful communication tool for all activity groups established. The Secretariat was invited to explore ways and opportunities to implement these tools and to continue collecting expressions of interest in joining the various activity groups.

### **Activity Group 3 - “Study Tour for capacity building and training”**

Brazil, leader of Activity Group 3, presented the objective and scope of work of this activity group aimed 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.

The Study Tour was proposed to be implemented in three modules, preceded by a preparatory workshop to be organized back to back to forthcoming GBEP meetings in the fall of 2012:

✓ *Module I – Thematic courses on various topics and regional areas*

Brazil offered, as a first activity of this module, to hold a “Bioenergy Week” in Brazil in the first semester of 2012. It would imply the participation of several Brazilian experts and it would be focused on sustainable production of bioenergy as well as on R&D in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

✓ *Module II – Training in loco in selected countries*

Organize a series of consecutive short training courses in selected countries on different topics.

✓ *Module III – Educational cooperation and R&D*

Training courses for developing countries on R&D to be organized by identified Centres of Excellence on bioenergy.

The Working Group appreciated the proposal that stimulated discussion and exchange of views, as well as expressions of interest in joining this activity group. The scope and proposal of work will be circulated via email in order to stimulate a further e-discussion. Several partners indicated their interest to join this activity group. The Secretariat was invited to continue collecting expressions of interest in joining this activity group.

### **New Activity Groups**

UN Foundation informed the Working Group about an exchange of views with FAO and UNEP regarding the possible creation of a further Activity Group to be focused on woody bioenergy. The Working Group invited UN Foundation, FAO and UNEP to continue discussing this matter with a view to develop a proposal/scope of work to be submitted to the next WGCB.

### **Conclusions and next steps**

- ✓ **2<sup>nd</sup> WGCB to recommend to the 13<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee** to approve the 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.
- ✓ **E-group discussions of Activity Groups 1 and 2 to continue.** Interested co-leaders are invited to continue stimulating related e-group discussions.
- ✓ **By 10 July 2012 - The GBEP Secretariat will:**
  - Circulate co-chair conclusions of the WGCB
  - Circulate the draft scope of work of Activity Group 3 in order to facilitate its e-group discussion. Interested co-leader is invited to facilitate this circulation and to stimulate related e-group discussions.
  - Request further expressions of interest in joining the e-group of the 3 established activity groups (updated list reflecting also interests expressed during the Rio meeting is attached in Annex I).
- ✓ **By 15 October 2012 - UN Foundation, FAO and UNEP** to share the draft scope of work of the potential new activity group on woody bioenergy, for submission and discussion at the next WGCB.
- ✓ **By 15 October 2012 – WGCB co-chairs** to share ideas on “communication strategy” for discussion at the next WGCB.
- ✓ **November 2012 – Rome, FAO Headquarters** (exact dates to be defined)
  - “ECOWAS-GBEP workshop on Bioenergy Resource Assessment and Mapping” (AG1)
  - Seminar on “Sharing data and experience on the implementation of the GBEP indicators” (AG2)
  - Preparatory seminar on “Study Tour for capacity building and training” (AG3)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)
  - Field trip (kindly organized by Italy-INEA – to be confirmed)
- ✓ **At the 3<sup>rd</sup> WGCB - The Secretariat** will submit proposals to establish a *discussion forum* for Activity Group 2 and a *data platform* for the 3 established activity groups, on the GBEP website.

**WGCB Activity Groups' lists***Updated 27 June 2012*

**Activity Group 1 –Regional Forums/Workshops on Sustainable Modern Bioenergy** (co-leaders: United States of America and ECOWAS)

- Argentina
- Brazil
- ECOWAS
- FAO
- Germany
- Ghana
- IRENA
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Sweden
- United States of America
- UNEP
- UN Foundation

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**Activity Group 2 - Raising awareness, and sharing of data and experience on the implementation of GBEP indicators** (co-leaders: Germany and Indonesia)

- Argentina
- Cambodia
- Colombia
- ECOWAS
- FAO
- Germany
- Ghana
- IDB
- Indonesia
- IRENA
- Italy
- Japan
- Mauritania
- Netherlands
- Paraguay
- United States of America

- Sudan
- Switzerland
- UNEP

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### **Activity Group 3 - Study tour for capacity building and training (leader: Brazil)**

- Argentina
- Brazil
- ECOWAS
- Germany
- Italy
- Paraguay
- United States of America

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