Sierra Leone and the country's strategy for sustainable Bioenergy development

Country Report

General Information

Sierra Leone

- **Population**: **5,696,471** in 2009, **62%** of the population is **rural**
  70% of the population lives **below the poverty line**
  25% youth unemployment rate

- **Agriculture:** contributes 46% of GDP, 60% labour force, 8.3% total merchandise export value. **Agricultural sector** characteristics: subsistence farming, bush fallow system, rain-fed production, low productivity

- **Land:** Only 15% **arable land** is under cultivation
  Land tenure is characterized by a **dual ownership** structure: legal constitutional rules & communal ownership

- **Water:** Abundant rainfall and little irrigation. Most irrigation water serves the agriculture sector.

- **Environment:** Deforestation is the main environmental probler
  Climate Change: classified as one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change.

Sources: UNDP (2011), WDI (2010)

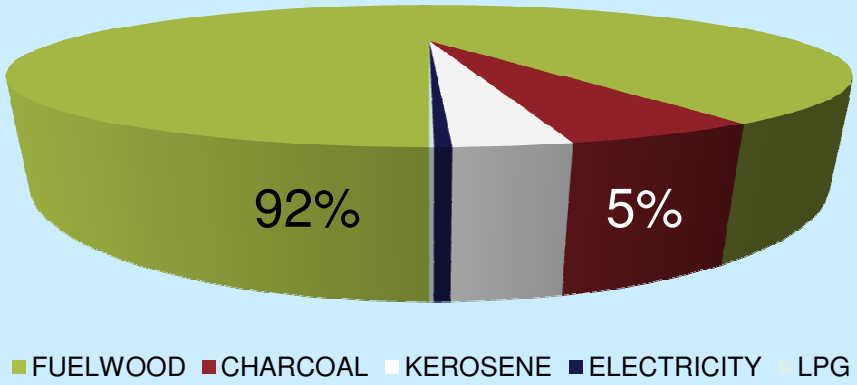
Energy & Bioenergy

Sierra Leone

- **Highly** dependant on imported fossil fuels and domestic supply of wood-based fuels
- Less than **7%** of the population has **access to electricity**
- Sierra Leone does **not** currently produce or consume **modern bioenergy**

97% of household energy comes from fuelwood & charcoal

Figure 4.1: Sierra Leone Household Energy Sources (2008)



Source: Agenda for Change (2008-2012)

Current crops

Sugar cane in the North by ADAX Bioenergy Company – operating in a highly degraded land

Oil Palm – SCOFIN 7000 Ha

SIVA Group – 80,000 ha

Risks

Competition with communities for natural resources especially for water

The Environment – pollution of water, biodiversity issues, construction and operational energy

Risk reduction

EIA, CDAP

Other regulations

FAO's support through the BEFS Approach

- Bioenergy bears opportunities and risks. Sustainable bioenergy strategies are country, context and crop specific

- The Bioenergy and Food Security (BEFS) Approach of FAO supports Sierra Leone and other countries in the region by
  - **Facilitating cross ministerial dialogue** (bioenergy and food security taskforce)
  - Generating an **information set for robust policy** formulation (**BEFS Analytical Framework**)
  - **Capacity building** (policy level and technical)

Country-specific BEFS analysis and support provides results to be used as a **basis for the design of sustainable bioenergy policies and strategies**

Cross ministerial dialogue:
The Bioenergy and Food Security Working Group

Ministry of Energy and Water Resources
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Forestry
Ministry of Local and Rural Development
Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment
Ministry of Trade and Industry
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency
Environment Protection Agency of Sierra Leone

The Strategy in Sierra Leone

- The BEFS WG, led by the **Ministry of Energy and Water Resources** and with support from **FAO**, is focused on addressing the main concerns and challenges for bioenergy development in the country and has reviewed the BEFS approach

- Based on this, the BEFS WG has formulated:

➡ **The Bioenergy and Food Security Strategy for Sierra Leone** for the development of a **sustainable bioenergy sector**, targeting food security, poverty reduction, rural development and increasing energy access.

➡ A set of **immediate actions** to support the Government in responding to bioenergy investors and build awareness.

BEFS support in SL: next steps

Investors are approaching and the country needs to manage them sustainably

Output 1: Guidelines for sustainable bioenergy development

Output 2: Community sensitization support

Output 3: Report detailing the findings of the legal review

Output 4: BEFS WG action plan

Bottom up approach: include communities opinion into the process

Review legislation in place to understand gaps and where bioenergy policy would fit

Continued support to the BEFS WG

Thank You!