

15th Meeting of the GBEP Steering Committee
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV)
Berlin, 30 May 2013

Co-Chair Summary

The 15th Steering Committee meeting of the Global Bioenergy Partnership was held in Berlin on 30 May 2013, kindly hosted by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) as well as the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) of the Government of Germany. Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Philippines, Sudan, Sweden, the United States of America, ECOWAS/ECREEE, the European Commission, FAO, ICRAF, IEA, IRENA, OAS, UNEP and UN Foundation participated in the meeting as Partners and Observers. Representatives of the ECOWAS region, specifically from Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo also participated as special guests. The meeting was chaired by Brazil.

The 15th Steering Committee meeting was followed by a study trip to the "Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering" and to the biogas plant "Bioconstruct" that took place on Friday 31 May 2013.

Welcome speech

The Steering Committee was opened by welcome speech of Mr Bernt Farcke, Head of Directorate, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV), Germany. He highlighted the great progresses of GBEP in the last two years, further to the agreement of the GBEP indicators, and confirmed that the GBEP's work is of major importance for the Government of Germany.

GBEP Membership and Meetings

The Steering Committee welcomed the representatives of the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) participating as special guests; IRENA as new GBEP Partner, further to the signature of the GBEP Terms of Reference in December 2012; and Ethiopia and the International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) as new GBEP Observers.

The Steering Committee was informed that Kazakhstan, ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics) and ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) informally approached the GBEP Secretariat to request information regarding a possible observer status. Feedback on these requests is welcome from Partners and Observers.

The Steering Committee discussed that there is no longer the need to hold two Steering Committee meetings a year and agreed to hold one Steering Committee meeting a year, sometime near the end of the year, preferably during the month of November in the FAO Headquarters building in Rome, unless a GBEP Partner or Observer offers to host the meeting elsewhere. The Steering committee also decided that technical and working group meetings will continue to be held back to back to Steering Committee meetings and additionally in between SC meetings during the year, as resources allow.

As stated in the GBEP Terms of Reference, this decision could be modified at any time as needed upon discussion and decision of the Steering Committee.

GBEP Programme of Work

Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)

The United States, co-Chair of the Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy, informed the Steering Committee on the results of the 4th meeting of the WGCB:

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

The Activity Group 1 discussed the successful results of its forums/workshops:

- The “ECOWAS Regional Bioenergy Forum” held in Mali in March 2012 initiated a regional dialogue to support ECOWAS Member States in developing regional and national bioenergy strategies;
- The “ECOWAS-GBEP Regional Biomass Resource Assessment” workshop held in Rome on 13–14 November 2012 focused on resource assessments and mapping to promote effective policy planning for a sustainable bioenergy sector in West Africa.
- The “Bioenergy Week” held in Brasilia on 17-23 March 2013 jointly with Activity Group 3 contributed to foster exchange of information, experience, skills and technologies to improve overall agricultural productivity, yield, and infrastructure logistics.

The Activity Group 1 decided to close its activities in light of the achievement of its objectives. A final report, with the aim to facilitate knowledge sharing on the work done will be developed and submitted to the next GBEP SC meeting for consideration.

- ***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 held a very interesting session dedicated to share experiences and lessons learned from the pilot testing in progress of the GBEP indicators (Colombia, Ghana, Germany, Indonesia, Netherlands and USA), as well as a technical discussion on experiences related to the implementation of 4 specific indicators (indicator 2 “Soil quality”; indicator 6 “Water quality; Indicator 10 “Price and supply of a national food basket”; and Indicator 17 “Productivity”).

A report collecting information from pilot testing of the GBEP indicators will be developed by Ecofys before the summer 2013. It will be posted on the GBEP website.

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, and also possible links with the Clean Energy Solutions Center (www.cleanenergysolutions.org).

- ***Activity Group 3 - “Study Tour for capacity building and training”*** (led by Brazil)

The Activity Group 3 held the first “Bioenergy Week” in Brasilia on 17-23 March 2013 in collaboration with Activity Group 1. It consisted of short training sessions analyzing technical and public policy aspects of bioenergy development, in line with GBEP 24 indicators of sustainability. Bioenergy technology and knowhow were also shared through fieldtrips to biodiesel and bioethanol plants.

The Working Group highly appreciated the important results of the first study tour held in Brasilia and invited the Activity Group 3 to further discuss the organization of the next one, to take place in Maputo in spring 2014 further to the kind offer of the Government of Mozambique.

○ ***New Activity Group 4 – “Towards sustainable modern wood energy development”***

The Working Group discussed the draft scope of work developed by FAO in cooperation with UNEP and UN Foundation, following a e-group discussions. The complexity of the issue was presented and discussed, in particular with reference to the potential focus of the Activity Group:

- Track 1. Sustainable production and use of wood energy for household and productive local uses - primarily in developing countries;
- Track 2. Engaging GBEP as an interested and capable stakeholder with leaders in the large-scale use of wood energy.

The Working Group agreed that Track 1 was very important, but did not achieve consensus on Track 2. Therefore, more discussions are needed in order to better define the scope of work and budget requirements for this proposed Activity Group.

○ ***New Activity Group 5 – “The Global Renewable Energy Atlas”***

The Working Group discussed the revised draft scope of work presented by IRENA towards the development of a repository of high quality resource maps from leading technical institutes worldwide, and a simplified model for evaluating the technical information on the basis of the GBEP sustainability indicators. The Working Group appreciated the revised proposal and agreed to establish the Activity Group 5 that will start working – mainly through e-group and webinar discussions – to develop guidance on how to interpret and use maps in light of the GBEP indicators and also to incorporate a component of the efforts on building the capacity of developing countries/institutes to use mapping as a tool to support good policy development.

The Working Group also agreed that GBEP will send a letter to IRENA to confirm the mutual cooperation in the development of the bioenergy component of the Global Renewable Energy Atlas.

○ ***Proposal on “Achieving sustainable bioenergy development and food security”***

The Working Group was informed by FAO about the proposal for GBEP to undertake some work aimed at strengthening capacities in achieving sustainable bioenergy development and food security. The Working Group briefly discussed the possibility that a new activity group would not be needed and that the important work proposed could be incorporated in all other relevant activity groups. As such, the Working Group agreed to organize an informational workshop to be held during the next GBEP meetings in order to present some of the work done by FAO and GBEP partners with a view to balance the extreme negative positions expressed with regard to bioenergy at some international meetings and in a few international publications.

○ ***Sustainable Energy For All (SEFA)***

The Working Group discussed the contribution of GBEP to the UN “Sustainable Energy for All (SEFA)” programme and agreed to recommend to the Steering Committee to send a letter to Co-Chairs of the SEFA initiative – UN Secretary General BAN Ki-moon and World Bank President Kim – in order to express support by the Partnership for the SEFA initiative and its three aspirational goals¹ and to the important role that sustainable

¹ SEFA aspirational goals to be achieved by 2030:

- Ensure universal access to modern energy services;

bioenergy must play not only in bringing universal access to modern energy services, but also in transitioning countries away from the unsustainable use of traditional biomass for cooking and heating.

○ ***Communication Strategy***

The GBEP Communication Strategy paper has been finalized in light of inputs received since last GBEP meetings and is now available on the GBEP website.

○ ***Nomination of new Co-chairs of the WGCB***

Due to new assignments to the current co-chairs (the United States and the Netherlands), new co-chairs of the WGCB will be identified.

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. Secondment of staff to the GBEP Secretariat was also indicated as an important possible contribution to the day-to-day activities of the Partnership.

GBEP Report to the G8 and G20 Summits 2013

The Steering Committee endorsed the circulated text of the GBEP Report to the G8 Lough Erne Summit 2013. This Report will be submitted to the G8 Leaders (Lough Erne, Northern Ireland, 17-18 June 2013), as well as to the G20 Leaders (St. Petersburg, 5-6 September 2013).

G8 and G20 partner countries were also invited to contact their own G8 and G20 Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas networks in order to facilitate the inclusion of a new mandate to GBEP in the G8 and G20 2013 Declarations.

Next steps

- ***GBEP Report to the G8 Summit*** (Northern Ireland, Lough Erne, 17-18 June 2013). It will be submitted to the G8 Presidency with a letter signed by the GBEP Chair.
- ***GBEP Letter*** to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and World President Jim Yong Kim regarding support for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.
- ***GBEP Report to the G20 Summit*** (Russia, St. Petersburg, 5-6 September 2013). The same text above will be submitted to the G20 Presidency with a letter signed by the GBEP chair.
- ***16th GBEP Steering Committee meeting to take place in Rome (FAO Headquarters), last week of November 2013.*** It will be preceded by the 5th WGCB and other technical events. The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.
- ***2nd Bioenergy Week to be held in Maputo, Mozambique, spring 2014.*** Further details will follow in due time.

● Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency;
● Double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.