

16th Meeting of the GBEP Steering Committee
FAO Headquarters, King Faisal Room
Rome, 13 December 2013

Chair Summary

The 16th Steering Committee meeting of the Global Bioenergy Partnership was held on 13 December 2013, in Rome, FAO Headquarters.

Brazil, Cambodia, China, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mozambique, Netherlands, Paraguay, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, Vietnam, ECOWAS, European Commission, FAO, ICRAF, IEA, IRENA, OAS, UN Foundation and UNEP participated in the meeting as Partners and Observers. The meeting was chaired by Italy and Brazil.

Welcome speech

The Steering Committee was opened by a welcome speech of Mr Olivier Dubois, Senior Natural Resources Officer, Climate, Energy and Tenure Division at FAO. He highlighted the importance of pursuing sustainable bioenergy development and the need of exchanging experiences and field work to this end. He also stressed the great progresses of GBEP in the last years, and confirmed the support and commitment of FAO to GBEP.

GBEP Membership

The Steering Committee welcomed the Philippines and ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) as new GBEP Observers.

The Steering Committee was informed that Serbia informally approached the GBEP Secretariat to request information regarding a possible observer status. Feedback on this request is welcome from Partners and Observers.

The Steering Committee was also informed that the Technical Committee 285 of ISO (International Organization for Standardization), which is focused on clean cookstoves and clean cooking solutions, has invited GBEP to formally liaise with it, in order to actively participate in its related programme of work. Further to a discussion, the Steering Committee noted that so far GBEP has indirectly contributed to the ISO's activities through the participation of GBEP member countries that are also part of ISO's works. It was confirmed to continue with this same cooperative approach.

GBEP Programme of Work

Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)

The ECREEE/ECOWAS, newly nominated co-Chair - together with Argentina - of the Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy, informed the Steering Committee on the results of the 5th 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)
ECOWAS, co-leader of the Activity Group 1, presented the draft final report of this Activity Group highlighting main results and achievements of its activities. The Activity

Group 1 concluded that the GBEP interventions in the ECOWAS region has raised the awareness of the potentials of sustainable bioenergy in the region, however more work needs to be done particularly with regard to developing policy, regulatory, and business frameworks that promote the transition away from the unsustainable use of traditional biomass towards more sustainable modern bioenergy.

The draft final report of the AG1 was circulated for comments by 31 December 2013, in order to finalize it and translate it into French and Portuguese. It will be posted on the GBEP website in the three languages.

- **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. Furthermore, new plans of implementation of GBEP sustainability indicators were announced.

The Working Group invited the Activity Group 2 to continue its work and mentioned the need to further discuss the possibility to develop a GBEP note to address the recommendations identified from the various piloting, with a view to enhance the practicality of the GBEP indicators as a tool for policy making. Participants were also called upon 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. Moderators of the discussion forum will be identified and communicated to the GBEP members.

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

The Working Group discussed the draft agenda of the second “Bioenergy Week” to be held in Mozambique, Maputo, in spring 2014. The Working Group agreed to structure the agenda of the Maputo event around three main themes: food security, family farming integration and wood energy. Speakers of these three thematic sessions will be invited to make explicit cross cutting references to the related GBEP sustainability indicators. In addition an important reference to regulatory framework will be foreseen, as well as the organization of break-out-group sessions with business sector and stakeholders to improve mutual cooperation towards a more sustainable production and use of bioenergy.

It was agreed to circulate the revised draft agenda for inputs from Partners and Observers by 15 January 2014. These inputs will facilitate to identify speakers (indicating under which thematic focus these should be included), relevant experts to be invited, as well as private sector representatives to be involved in the break-out-group sessions.

Brazil and Italy expressed their willingness to contribute to fund this event, and other Partners and Observers were invited to do the same.

- **New Activity Group 4 – “Towards sustainable modern wood energy development”** (co-led by FAO, UNEP and UN Foundation/GACC)

FAO and UNEP gave a brief overview of the revised proposal to work on sustainable production and use of wood energy for household energy access and productive local uses, primarily in developing countries.

A stepwise approach, with the following initial activities, was proposed:

- ✓ Stock taking paper regarding successful initiatives on solid biomass development in developing countries. This paper will be developed subject to the availability of funding and also on the basis of data and best practices provided by Partners and Observers.
- ✓ Webinar to present the stock taking paper and exchange lessons learned.

✓ Capacity building workshop on lessons learned on wood energy development. On this it was agreed to dedicate a full session of the next GBEP Bioenergy Week (Maputo, Mozambique) to this theme.

The Working Group appreciated the revised proposal and stepwise approach, and agreed to establish this Activity Group 4.

○ **Activity Group 5 – “The Global Renewable Energy Atlas”** (led by IRENA)

The Working Group discussed the following organization of work proposed for the year 2014:

Stream 1: development of a repository of resource maps

- Task 1: identifying information sources.
- Task 2: review of the proposed information sources and establishment of the corresponding partnerships.
- Task 3: creating maps and reviewing content

Stream 2: simplified model for evaluating the technical information on the basis of the GBEP sustainability indicators

- Task 4: displaying information on the GBEP sustainability indicators
- Task 5: guidance to the end-users on how to interpret and use maps in light of the GBEP sustainability indicator

Stream 3: communication and dissemination

- Task 6: Global Atlas web portal

The Working Group exchanged views on the proposed work plan and decided to focus on Streams 2 and 3. As such Stream 1, in light of its specific mapping content, will be developed by IRENA independently from GBEP.

Further discussions will follow on Stream 2 and 3 in view of funding opportunities needed to organize a workshop in 2014 to discuss the possible development of a guidance/methodological framework on how to interpret and use maps in light of the GBEP sustainability indicators.

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

The Working Group discussed the proposal (circulated by FAO before the May meetings) for GBEP to undertake some work aimed at strengthening capacities in achieving sustainable bioenergy development and food security, with the view of balancing negative statements with concrete facts and experiences on the ground.

The Working Group recognized the key relevance of this theme and agreed to focus on this a full session of the next Bioenergy Week. The Working Group also agreed to keep this discussion alive for future further considerations.

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

The Working Group on Capacity Building was updated by Mr Gerard Ostheimer, UN SEFA bioenergy focal point, on the recent developments in the programme of work of the UN “Sustainable Energy for All (SEFA)” initiative. The Working Group confirmed its support to the SEFA initiative.

The Steering Committee endorsed the way forward discussed and agreed by the 5th Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB).

GBEP programme of work and funding arrangements

The GBEP Secretariat presented to the Steering Committee the “2013 Financial Reporting” and the “2014 Budget estimation” for the implementation of the GBEP activities. With a view to implement the GBEP programme of work, discussed and agreed by the 16th Steering Committee, Partners and Observers were invited to contribute, 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 was informed of the formal recognition and expression of support that GBEP has received from the G20 Leaders during the recent St. Petersburg Summit (September 2013). This was recognized as an important step forward in terms of political support to GBEP from a large group of countries.

Sustainable Energy For All (SEFA)

The Steering Committee was informed of the letter (agreed at the 15th SC in May 2013) sent by the GBEP co-Chairs to Ban Ki-moon (UN Secretary General) and Jim Yong Kim (President of the World Bank), in their role of co-Chairs of the SEFA Advisory Board, to express the GBEP support to the SEFA initiative and goals. The Steering Committee, also in light of the updates of the UN SEFA representative to the GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building, confirmed its support to the SEFA initiative.

Next steps

- *2nd Bioenergy Week to be held in Maputo, Mozambique, 5-9 May 2014.* The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.
- *17th GBEP Steering Committee meeting to take place in Rome (FAO Headquarters), in November/December 2014.* It will be preceded by the 6th Working Group on Capacity Building. The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.