

**ECOWAS/GBEP WORKSHOP ON THE  
PILOTING OF GBEP SUSTAINABILITY  
INDICATORS  
PRAIA (CAPE VERDE), 7-8 NOVEMBER 2013**

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE PILOT STUDY IN  
GHANA**



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# **1. A pilot project approach is very valuable as a first start in a country**

- Identification of gaps.
- An effective way of limiting ambitions and risks.
- A pilot only takes limited time from all persons involved.
- A better understanding and estimation of the efforts needed for the next step, are obtained.

## **2. Firm institutional support is needed to be able to successfully pilot and implement the GBEP indicators**

- A coordinating organisation taking responsibility for the project (preferably the government organisation responsible for bioenergy policy);
- Supporting government organisations involved in policymaking and/or data collection;
- Research organisations with expertise on (the most relevant) bioenergy related topics;
- Organisations involved in data collection and reporting e.g. statistical services.

## **2. The GBEP Sustainability Indicators are very relevant for Ghana**

- Bioenergy holds many opportunities for Ghana including reduced reliance on fossil fuel, increased employment and increased agricultural efficiency.
- There are also downsides or risks such as competition with food, deforestation and degradation of soil quality.
- Implementing the GBEP Sustainability Indicators provides the possibility of monitoring the actual developments in this area and to take action if needed.

### **3. GBEP Sustainability Indicators can help to seize the benefits of bioenergy and avoid the downsides and risks of this growing market in Ghana**

The GBEP Sustainability Indicators can be used:

- Identify current and potential challenges and opportunities
- Assess the most important (challenge or opportunity) in bioenergy technologies and sectors to take action
- Facilitate discussions on sustainability levels and ambitions
- Monitor progress and impacts

## **4. A fully-fledged implementation of the GBEP methodology will be practically impossible in Ghana due to several challenges**

- The non-availability of a lot of data needed to calculate / construct the indicators
- If the necessary data was collected, it usually was not in line with the data collection methodology as described by GBEP
- For a number of indicators the data collection methodology is too complex, looking at the early stage of modern bioenergy in Ghana
- For a number of indicators there are too many sub-indicators, looking at the early stage of modern bioenergy in Ghana.
- Data to be used in the GBEP methodology needs to be based on actual measurements or surveys in combination with modelling. Surveys and actual measurements are not being used in Ghana in the area of bioenergy, except for those aspects that are covered by the GLSS5 and the Agricultural data from MoFA-SRID.

## **5. Fully-fledged implementation of the GBEP methodology will require high investment in resources**

- To deal with the complexity and detail of many GBEP indicators will require a huge investment in resources.
- This is not realistic as resources for structured data collection in general is already a challenge in Ghana.
- Investing such high resources in a fully-fledged implementation of the GBEP methodology cannot be justified because of the early stage of the current bioenergy sector in Ghana.

## **6. The need to seek support from all key stakeholders**

- The GBEP indicators cover a wide range of subjects related to different policy and research fields.
- As a consequence it is crucial that all key stakeholders from government and research organisations are involved in the follow-up.

## **7. Use of a simplified GBEP methodology and extend this system when appropriate and necessary**

- The follow-up project for Ghana should use the GBEP methodology with a limited number of indicators and sub-indicators, with a selective scope and with simplified data collection methodologies for a number of indicators.
- This light version of the GBEP methodology can be extended in the long run when more and more detailed information becomes available .

## **8. Use of the four objectives formulated during the pilot project for follow-up**

Based on the discussion at the project workshop 9th November 2012 and discussions with the Energy Commission the following objectives for a follow-up project have been identified.

- Determination of the relevant indicators, appropriate data collection strategies and applied focus;
- Setting-up the required infrastructures (hard and software), including capacity building;
- Implementing (collecting and reporting) the indicators for at least two years;
- Supporting Ghanaian governments in using the indicators in policy formulation and monitoring.

## **9. Seek synergies with other Ghanaian data collection, monitoring and reporting initiatives**

- Make use of existing infrastructures to increase resource efficiency
- Details on what data is collected, which data collection methodologies used, how is data stored and how reported can be exchanged to be able to assess the level of cooperation.

**THANK YOU**