



# **ECOWAS/GBEP Workshop on the Piloting of GBEP Sustainability Indicators**

**Praia, Cape Verde  
7 & 8 November 2013  
Concept Note**

**Supported by:**



**Government of the Netherlands**

**The Forum contributes to the:**



**2012 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY  
FOR ALL**

## **Context**

The production and use of bioenergy and biofuels is substantially growing worldwide and will continue to do so in the coming decades. Bioenergy can provide multiple benefits, such as economic development and increase in household income, mitigating climate change, providing access to modern energy. However, it is also associated with risks such as loss of biodiversity, deforestation, additional water use and increased demand for agricultural commodities, which can increase food prices. Often national policies are important drivers for the production and use of bioenergy. Moreover national governments have the primary responsibility for the sustainable development of the bioenergy sector in the country. Lack of appropriate planning and resource allocation could further lead to loss of farmland by farmers that could severely impact food security and associated social consequences.

In the ECOWAS region, there are very high levels of biomass use for energy purposes, most of which is unsustainably harvested and utilized. In some instances, more than 70% of the total energy consumption and 90% of domestic energy comes from traditional biomass, impacting negatively on lives, the environment and the economy.

Against this background, GBEP and ECOWAS (and Ghana) were supported by the Government of the Netherlands to conduct a pilot study on the applicability of GBEP Sustainability Indicators (SI) in Ghana. This pilot study was conducted effectively in 2012.

The purpose of this workshop therefore is to share and disseminate the results of the Pilot Study conducted in Ghana with the other member states of ECOWAS.

## **Introduction**

The Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) is a forum where national governments, international organizations and other partners engage in a dialogue on effective policy frameworks, identifying ways and means to facilitate investment, transfer of technology, enhance collaborative project development and their implementation to optimize the contribution of bioenergy to sustainable development, taking account of environmental, social and economic factors.

The GBEP Taskforce on Sustainability developed a set of 24 relevant, practical and science based sustainability indicators (SI) applicable to all forms of bioenergy and aimed at voluntary use by national governments. The GBEP indicators enable governments to collect information on sustainability issues related to bioenergy, analyze the information and use this for the design, development and implementation of policies related to sustainable bioenergy production and use. Moreover these indicators can provide a basis for the design of sustainable bioenergy policies, as they address the most important sustainability issues related to bioenergy production and use at a national level.

The GBEP indicators are starting points from which stakeholders and policy makers can identify and develop measurements and domestic data sources that are relevant to their nationally-defined needs and circumstances. The GBEP indicators do not provide answers or correct values of sustainability, but rather present the right questions to ask in

assessing the effect of modern bioenergy production and use in meeting nationally-defined goals of sustainable development.

### **Pilot Project description**

The GBEP indicators were necessary to test in a national context to establish their feasibility and enhance their practicality as a tool for policymaking. In order to achieve this, ECREEE/Ghana expressed their interest to pilot the GBEP Indicators in Ghana and the support of the Netherlands was granted for this Project. Therefore, this pilot project of the GBEP indicators was conducted in Ghana, in cooperation with the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) in 2012.

The main aims of this project are:

- 1) Enhancing the capacity of the host country (and ECOWAS) to use the GBEP indicators as a tool for assessing the sustainability of its bioenergy sector and/or developing sustainable bioenergy policies.
- 2) Learning lessons on how to apply the indicators and how to enhance their practicality as a tool for policymakers and giving this as feedback to the GBEP community.

The information gathered and lessons learned in the pilot in Ghana are the basis of the workshop to disseminate the results to the stakeholders in the ECOWAS member states through the national focal points.

### **Workshop Objective**

The objective of the workshop is to:

1. Provide information to the ECOWAS member states on the GBEP, its activities, the Sustainability Indicators and the benefits of these indicators; and
2. Share the results of the Pilot Study on GBEP Sustainability Indicators with the national focal points

### **Expected Result**

The ECOWAS member states are better informed about:

1. GBEP, its activities and the set of 24 Sustainability Indicators and benefits; and
2. the use of the Indicators and how they can apply it in their national circumstances.

### **Participants**

Participants would be drawn from ECOWAS member states and specifically the national focal points.

## Workshop Programme

Day One: 7 November 2013		
Time	Session	
14:30	1	<b>Opening Session:</b> <i>Welcome Remarks (ECREEE, GBEP)</i>
15:00	2	<b>Introduction and Background</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bioenergy and Sustainability</li> <li>2. GBEP Sustainability Indicators (SI)</li> <li>3. The 3 pillars of the SI: social, economic and environmental</li> </ol> <p>Discussion</p>
16:00		<i>Refreshment break</i>
16:30	3	<b>Introduction to the Pilot Study</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Pilot Study Project</li> <li>2. Processes and methodologies in the pilot Study</li> <li>3. General outcome of the Study</li> </ol> <p>Discussion</p>
17:30		End of Day One
Day Two: 8 November 2013		
Time	Session	
09:00	1	<b>Presentation of study on Environmental Pillars:</b> <i>Indicators 1, 2, 3, &amp; 8</i>  <i>Discussions</i>
10:30		Refreshment break
11:00	2	<b>Presentation of study on Social Pillars:</b> <i>Indicators 10, 12 &amp; 14</i>  <i>Discussions</i>
13:00		<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30	3	<b>Presentation of study on Economic Pillars:</b> <i>Indicators 17, 18 20 &amp; 23</i>  <i>Discussions</i>
16:00		Refreshment break
16:30	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conclusions of the Pilot Study</b></li> <li>• <b>Scaling up utilization of GBEP SI in the ECOWAS member states</b></li> <li>• <b>Wrokshop conclusions and recommendations</b></li> </ul>
17:30		End of Day Two