

8th meeting of the GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy

FAO Headquarters, Lebanon Room D-209 Bis

Rome, 1 December 2016

Co-Chair Conclusions

The GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB) held its 8th meeting on 1 December 2016 at FAO Headquarters in Rome.

Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Paraguay, Spain, Sweden, United States of America, Vietnam, European Commission, EUBIA, FAO, IEA Bioenergy, IRENA and UNEP participated in the meeting as Partners and Observers.

The 8th meeting of the WCBG was preceded by two events. The first was a field visit on the afternoon of 29th November 2016 to the Consiglio per la Ricerca in Agricoltura e l'Analisi dell'Economia Agraria (CREA) Bioenergy Demonstration Plant in Monterotondo. The second event was the workshop held by Activity Group 6 on "Examples of Positive Bioenergy and Water Relationships" held on 30th November 2016.

Field Visit to the Consiglio per la Ricerca in Agricoltura e l'Analisi dell'Economia Agraria (CREA) Bioenergy Demonstration Plant

Monterotondo (Rome), 29 November 2016

The field trip provided an excellent opportunity to see the research conducted in the headquarters in this research unit on agricultural engineering studies (CREA-ING).

Participants were first shown a prototype biomass plant on the site that produces steam to heat the rest of the research centre. This prototype plant is used to analyse the pollutants in the exhaust gas. This analysis is conducted in the laboratory, where participants were shown next on the tour. In the laboratory they are able to analyse both the heavy metals and the volatile compounds contained in the exhaust gas. The laboratory also conducts research on the physical and chemical characteristics of the biomass used in the plant. The centre also studies the characteristics of bio-oil as a lubricant for the hydraulic systems of tractors, and compare this with mineral lubricants. Further to this, participants were also shown examples of machinery developed by the centre to harvest certain crops for biomass (e.g. sorghum, thistle and poplar) and were given a demonstration of a specialised tractor for use on uneven terrain. After the tour of the centre, Luigi Pari, CREA-ING, gave a presentation on their research activities.

Activity Group 6 - "Bioenergy and Water" Workshop on "Examples of Positive Bioenergy and Water Relationships"

Rome, 30 November 2016

Göran Berndes and Uwe Fritsche (IEA Bioenergy/IEA leader of AG6) welcomed participants to the workshop and adopted the agenda. Göran Berndes recapped the accomplishments of the AG6 so far, including the workshop and the two webinars on bioenergy and water organized in collaboration with IEA Bioenergy. He also articulated the continued vision of the AG6 to

contribute the constructive dialogue on the relationships between water and bioenergy and opportunities to find positive and synergistic interrelations.

Madelene Ostwald, Associate Professor at the Centre for Environment and Sustainability, University of Gothenburg/Chalmers University, Sweden, attended the meeting as an external expert. She gave an interesting presentation on the wider context of bioenergy and water in terms of a 'landscape definition'. She explained her work on the Agrifose2030 programme and how it relates to the landscape approach to managing agriculture.

The workshop included a roundtable discussion on interests and possible contributions of GBEP Partners to AG6. Three representatives from international organisations gave presentations on their work in this area – Luc Pelkmans (IEA Bioenergy), Jippe Hoogeveen (Land and Water Division, FAO) and Jeffrey Skeer (IRENA). These presentations were followed by presentations by representatives from GBEP countries - Miguel Almada (Argentina), Ahmed Abdelati Ahmed Ali Youssef (Egypt), Kwabena Ampadu Otu-Danquah (Ghana), Guido Bonati (Italy), Takashi Hayashi (Japan), Nelson Maina Manyeki (Kenya), Justo Vargas (Paraguay), Fahran Robb (USA), Pham Quang Hà (Vietnam) and Roberta Maria Lima Ferreira (Brazil).

The roundtable presentations were followed by a discussion on the next steps and activities for the AG6 for 2017. These proposed activities are to:

- contribute to the GBEP TFS work on indicator guidance and in particular to contribute to the mid-2017 workshop of the TFS on SDGs and GBEP Sustainability Indicators;
- produce a “Memo” on SDG Implementation and bioenergy and water; and
- hold an event at the 2017 World Water Week in Stockholm to disseminate AG6 results to a broader audience.

These proposed activities will be complemented by electronic contributions from AG6 members, received until 23 December 2016 and will form the basis for a Scope of Work. A draft will be prepared by the AG6 leader and circulated for discussion by 13 Jan 2017. A final Scope of Work will be submitted for approval by GBEP Partners and Observers by 3 February 2017.

Opening of the WGCB

The co-chair, Mr. Miguel Almada from Argentina, welcomed participants to the 8th meeting of the WGCB and officially adopted the meeting's agenda. Mr. Bah Saho from ECOWAS, the other co-chair, could not be present and a welcome message was played. He thanked participants for their continued cooperation and stressed the continued support by ECOWAS announcing their availability to host the 5th Bioenergy Week in Ghana in July 2017.

Discussions on Activity Groups 2, 3, 4 and 6 were held during the 8th meeting of the GBEP WGCB.

Activity Group 2 – “Raising awareness, and sharing of data and experience on the implementation of the GBEP indicators”

The co-leader of Activity Group 2, Mr. Horst Fehrenbach from Germany moderated this session. Mr. Edi Wibowo from Indonesia sends his greetings and apologies for not being able to be present. Mr. Horst Fehrenbach gave an overview of the sharing of data and experiences from implementation of the GBEP indicators. Five countries are currently in the process of

implementing the GSIs and six further countries have planned to implement the GSIs in the near future.

The AG2 will continue its work in the future to support the TFS in the development of the implementation guide as new experiences become available from countries where implementation of the GBEP indicators is ongoing or planned.

Activity Group 3 – “Study Tour for capacity building and training”

Ms. Roberta Maria Lima Ferreira from Brazil gave a report on the 4th Bioenergy Week, which was hosted by the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture and supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The event took place in Budapest, Hungary from 21 to 24 of June 2016.

The enormous benefit of the first cycle of regional Bioenergy Weeks was stressed by participants, which applauded the proposal to continue in the future. It was proposed and agreed upon that the 5th Bioenergy Week will be hosted by ECOWAS in Ghana in July 2017, with a focus on bioenergy themes of direct interest to Africa. The GBEP Secretariat requests inputs from Partners and Observers by 15 January 2017 on potential themes and speakers to be invited at the Bioenergy Week in Ghana, so that a draft agenda can be developed and circulated.

Furthermore, Argentina generously announced their willingness to host the 6th Bioenergy Week in 2018.

Activity Group 4 - “Towards sustainable modern wood energy development”

Mr. Olivier Dubois from FAO led and moderated the session on Activity Group 4. He began by presenting the key outcomes of the AG4, which were: a stock taking paper regarding successful initiatives on solid biomass development in developing countries – including lessons learned and sustainability impacts; a webinar to present the stock taking paper and exchange lessons learned; and a capacity building workshop on lessons learned.

On the latter, he referred to the “ECOWAS Workshop on Sustainable Wood Energy Management” held in Cotonou, Benin in May 2016. The aim of the workshop was to share success stories from countries in the ECOWAS region and beyond, and to mainstream the results and approaches so that they could be applied in other similar contexts. This event brought together policymakers, experts on wood energy and representatives from both public and private financial institutions. It allowed for the exchange of successful strategies between neighbouring countries and facilitated the creation of business plans for sustainable wood energy value chains. The workshop in Benin was particularly beneficial for sharing lessons learned and also examining recommendations for future topics of discussion and action.

The Partners and Observers acknowledged the work carried out by the Activity Group 4 under the small-scale workstream and agreed that this Scope of Work has been completed. However, Partners and Observers also agree that the AG4 should remain open to allow for discussion on the 2nd workstream within the AG4 on industrial scale wood energy management. To this end, Partners and Observers are invited to provide input by 15 January 2017 to the GBEP Secretariat that will collate the research already conducted in this area, with the view to produce a list of relevant literature on the theme of industrial wood energy. This list is aimed to inform future AG4 discussions during the next regular GBEP meetings in 2017.

Activity Group 6 - “Bioenergy and Water”

Mr. Göran Berndes from IEA Bioenergy (as AG6 Leader) provided participants with an update of the work that Activity Group 6 has done thus far. The presentation began with a recap of the “Examples of Positive Bioenergy and Water Relationships” workshop held on 30 November 2016 in Rome, and the two webinars held in April and May 2016.

The workshop held in Rome provided an opportunity to discuss the Scope of Work for 2017 and the possible deliverables. The proposed activities for 2017 will be:

- contribute to the GBEP TFS work on indicators (especially environment Subgroup) and in particular to the proposed mid-2017 Workshop of the TFS on SDGs and GBEP Sustainability Indicators;
- prepare a “memo” by AG6 regarding SDGs implementation and bioenergy/water, with a *focus on policies and tools* (e.g. best practices) to realize synergies between sustainable bioenergy implementation and sustainable water resource management, considering linkages to biodiversity, land use, livelihoods, and rural development; and
- propose an AG6 event during the 2017 World Water Week (Stockholm, 27 August – 1 September 2017) to disseminate AG6 results to a broader audience.

These proposed activities will be complemented by electronic contributions from AG6 members, received by the GBEP Secretariat until 23 December 2016 and will form the basis for a Scope of Work. A draft will be prepared by the AG6 leader for circulation and discussion by 13 Jan 2017. A final Scope of Work will be submitted for approval by GBEP Partners and Observers by 3 February 2017.

Future Activities

In addition to the established activity groups, discussions were also held on potential future activities that the WGCB could contribute towards. The fields of biogas and advanced biofuels were highlighted as areas where GBEP has a particular ability to add value.

Biogas is considered especially relevant by GBEP Partners and Observers. A GBEP activity in this field will be explored with related activities developed by IEA Bioenergy (Task 37) and other international initiatives such as the Global Methane Initiative. The 5th Bioenergy Week in Africa provides a good platform for further discussions on the topic.

The importance of **advanced biofuels** was highlighted by Partners and Observers. A GBEP activity in this field will be explored taking into consideration other initiatives, such as Below50, ICAO and the recently established Biofuture Platform, with a view to be mutually beneficial and avoid overlap and duplication of efforts.

For both biogas and advanced biofuels, the GBEP Secretariat will prepare background notes so that GBEP’s possible future activities within these themes may be better defined. These documents will be circulated in March-April 2017 to Partners and Observers in order to identify willingness to start work on these topics. Discussions among Partners and Observers for clarification and decision-making purposes could be held electronically or with a teleconference, if deemed necessary. In light of these discussions, if considered appropriate, the Activity Groups could be approved remotely and start working prior to the GBEP regular meetings in November 2017.

Conclusions and next steps

The next steps that were discussed and agreed upon are:

- **Activity Group 2** will continue its work in the future to support the TFS in the development of the implementation guide as new experiences become available from countries where implementation of the GBEP indicators is ongoing or planned.
- **Activity Group 3 will organize the 2017 Bioenergy Week focused on themes of direct interest to the Africa region in July 2017 in Ghana** (exact date and venue will follow in due time). The GBEP Secretariat requests inputs from Partners and Observers by 15 January 2017 on potential themes and speakers to be invited at the Bioenergy Week in Ghana, so that a draft agenda can be developed and circulated.

The 6th Bioenergy Week will be held in Argentina in 2018. Details will be circulated in due time.

- **Activity Group 4** has completed its work under the small-scale energy management workstream and will now explore the second workstream of industrial-scale wood energy.

To this end, Partners and Observers are invited to provide input by 15 January 2017 to the GBEP Secretariat that will collate the research already conducted in this area, with the view to produce a list of relevant literature on the theme of industrial wood energy. This list will inform future AG4 discussions during the next regular GBEP meetings in 2017.

- **Activity Group 6** will develop a 2017 Scope of Work to potentially include to: contribute to the GBEP TFS work on indicators; prepare a “memo” regarding SDGs implementation and bioenergy/water; and propose an AG6 event during the 2017 World Water Week.

These proposed activities will be complemented by electronic contributions from AG6 members, received by the GBEP Secretariat until 23 December 2016 and will form the basis for a Scope of Work. A draft will be prepared by AG6 leader for circulation and discussion by 13 Jan 2017. A final Scope of Work will be submitted for approval by GBEP Partners and Observers by 3 February 2017.

- **Future Activities** were discussed at the meeting. **Biogas** and **advanced biofuels** were highlighted as potential areas where GBEP could add value. The GBEP Secretariat will prepare background notes on these topics, which will be circulated March/April 2017. Discussions among Partners and Observers for clarification and decision-making purposes could be held electronically or with a teleconference, if deemed necessary. In light of these discussions, if considered appropriate, the Activity Groups could be approved remotely and start working prior to the GBEP regular meetings in November 2017.