Maximizing Availability of Bioenergy Feedstocks Need to Debunk Myths and Focus on Realities & Needs

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GBEP Bioenergy Week, 16 June 2019

Myth #1–1G/Food-based feedstocks always bad for food??

- **Not necessarily the case** (e.g. sugarcane ethanol in Brazil)
- **Flex crops (that produce both food and fuel) do not compete with food if fuel adds to food** – Challenging but possible through the use of agreed good practices

RE: Enough Land? **More about 'Whose' and 'What 'than 'How Much' land**

RE: Food prices There is a link BUT

- Bioenergy/biofuels are **one amongst several influencing factors**
- Need to look much more at the **influence at national & household level** than international level

Myth #2 - Energy crop/2G biofuels – Silver bullet??

- **Less DIRECT competition** with food security

BUT

- **Less edible by - products** as the whole plant is used for bioenergy
- **Possible negative environmental effects** (e.g. from large scale monocropping plantations)
- **Possible INDIRECT competition with food security**
  - Regarding land use
  - Regarding the use of agricultural residues (soil, feed, energy)
- **No flexibility between food and energy markets**
- **No meaningful impact for while** because currently < 2 % of biofuels (themselves <5% of transport fuels) + still huge challenges to commercialise them

Myths #3 - Feedstocks from Residues – Panacea??

- Use of by-products/residues allows for 10-30% **reduction in land needs**

BUT

Watch out for

- **Competing use of agricultural residues** (soil management – animal feed – bioenergy)
- **Handling costs**

Myth #4: ILUC risk is NEW, is ALWAYS very strong concerning biodiesel and is ALWAYS Low or DOES NOT EXIST with 2G Biofuels

- ILUC risk is not new – It concerns all biomass production for food and non food purposes that can entail land use change **– Hence NOT ONLY 1G BIOFUELS but concerns also 2G biofuels (in case of tree plantations)**
- And while ILUC risk certainly exist - according to models**, so far not much concrete evidence of ILUC actually happening**

Global Realities

- **Sustainable bioenergy production is complex**

- **One should embrace this complexity** rather than oversimplifying things by relying only on modelling and global studies

- The good news is that **there is enough knowledge and tools to move from**
  - **"food versus fuel" to "food and fuel"**
  - **model-based ILUC policies and actions** to **low ILUC risk practices and policy support**

Generic Needs

- **Move Away from Myths** and **Sweeping Statements**

- **Embrace the complexities** of sustainable bioenergy

- **Be constructive and rigorous by using available tools to get things right** through an **integrated, contextualized** and **evidence-based approach**

Needs on Feedstock Matters

- One should be **agnostic not dogmatic about types of feedstock**

- This is because **what matters is their sustainability – hence the way they are managed** for food and non-food purposes rather than their type

- Watch out on **competition between different uses of feedstocks**

Needs on 1G/2G Biofuels

- **2G biofuels should be developed in parallel with 1G biofuels** because **we simply can't afford dropping 1G if we want to reach the climate change targets**

- The **key issue is** not about choosing between 1G or 2G biofuels, but **on how to make biofuels and more broadly bioenergy, sustainable**

Thank you for your attention!

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