

The Global Bioenergy Partnership

A Global Commitment to Bioenergy

GBEP was established to implement the commitments taken by the G8 in the 2005 Gleneagles Plan of Action to support "biomass and biofuels deployment, particularly in developing countries where biomass use is prevalent".

Following a consultation process among developing and developed countries, international agencies and the private sector, the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) was launched at the 14th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) in New York on 11 May 2006.

In 2007, 2008 and 2009, GBEP received a renewed mandate by the G8. The recent G8 Muskoka Summit welcomed "the work of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)" and committed "to facilitating swift adoption of voluntary sustainability criteria and indicators, as well as on capacity building activities". (G8 Summit Declaration - Muskoka, 25-26 June 2010).

Purpose and Objectives

GBEP provides a forum to develop effective policy frameworks to:

- suggest rules and tools to promote sustainable biomass and bioenergy development;
- facilitate investments in bioenergy;
- promote project development and implementation;
- foster R&D and commercial bioenergy activities.

GBEP's main functions are to:

- promote global high-level policy dialogue on bioenergy and facilitate international cooperation;
- support national and regional bioenergy policy-making and market development;
- favour the transformation of biomass use towards more efficient and sustainable practices;
- foster exchange of information, skills and technologies through bilateral and multilateral collaboration;
- facilitate bioenergy integration into energy markets by tackling specific barriers in the supply chain.

Partners and Membership

GBEP brings together public, private and civil society stakeholders.

GBEP Partners now comprise 23 countries and 12 international organizations and institutions: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Fiji, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Mauritania, Mexico, Netherlands, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, United Kingdom, United States of America, European Commission, FAO, IDB, IEA, UNCTAD, UN/DESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UN Foundation, World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE) and European Biomass Industry Association (EUBIA).

A further 22 countries and 10 international organizations and institutions are participating as Observers: Angola, Australia, Austria, Chile, Egypt, El Salvador, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Mozambique, Norway, Peru, Rwanda, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, Viet Nam, African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), European Environment Agency (EEA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the World Bank and the World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Chair: Corrado Clini, Director General, Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea, Italy.
Co-Chair: André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, Director, Ministry of External Relations, Brazil.

The GBEP Secretariat, hosted at FAO Headquarters in Rome with the support of Italy, is the coordinator of communications and activities.

Programme of work

The Partnership focuses its activities in three strategic areas: Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Food and Energy Security.

In line with GBEP's Terms of Reference and the state of the international debate on bioenergy, GBEP Partners selected the following priority areas for the immediate programme of work:

- *Facilitate the sustainable development of bioenergy.*
The GBEP Task Force on Sustainability, established under the leadership of the United Kingdom, and currently led by Sweden, is working to develop a set of relevant, practical, science-based, voluntary criteria and indicators as well as examples of best practice regarding the sustainability of bioenergy. The criteria and indicators are intended to guide any analysis undertaken of bioenergy at the domestic level with a view to informing decision making and facilitating the sustainable development of bioenergy in a manner consistent with multilateral trade obligations. A further aim of this activity is to identify synergies between the various current initiatives and encourage closer joint working and integration where possible to promote greater consistency and reduce unnecessary duplication.
- *Testing a common methodological framework on GHG emission reduction measurement from the use of bioenergy.*
The GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies, established under the joint leadership of the United States and the UN Foundation, in June 2009 released a GBEP common methodological framework for the use of policy makers and stakeholders when assessing GHG emissions associated with bioenergy and to compare results of GHG lifecycle analyses on an equivalent and consistent basis. In January 2011, after a phase of dissemination and testing, a "Version One" of the "GBEP Common Methodological Framework for GHG Lifecycle Analysis of Bioenergy" was released and a Clearing House on GHG methodologies was developed on the GBEP website. The clearing house sets a platform to exchange information on the implementation and testing of the GBEP common methodological framework and allows users to share relevant documents, studies and experiences.
- *New focus area on capacity building for sustainable bioenergy.*
GBEP's current discussions are focused on defining its future work in promoting capacity-building for sustainable bioenergy.

- *Awareness raising and information management.*
GBEP's awareness-raising and information management activities seek to increase the understanding of issues related to bioenergy development focusing on the following areas:
 - Development of the GBEP Report "A review of the current state of bioenergy development in G8 +5 Countries", released in November 2007, which was instrumental in preparing for the GBEP's subsequent work.
 - Development of GBEP's information material and update of the GBEP website to promote information sharing on bioenergy and on GBEP's activities and programme of work;
 - Participation in relevant international conferences and meetings focused on bioenergy, and organization of specific GBEP events;
 - Organization of an international media campaign to promote GBEP activities and of the extensive media coverage of the GBEP's activities in print and online formats.

What Makes GBEP Unique

GBEP aims to make a unique contribution to the sustainable development of bioenergy through its focus and membership:

- A specific focus on bioenergy as a key renewable energy source.
- Improved coordination on bioenergy both across sectors and between public, private and civil society parties.
- Facilitating the engagement of the private sector.
- Focusing on developing countries, where biomass use is prevalent, and facilitate an exchange of experiences and technologies not only North-South, but also South-South, South-North, and North-North.
- Raising visibility of bioenergy opportunities and issues at the international level and including bioenergy in relevant development initiatives.
- Reflecting and supporting the strong political commitment to promote bioenergy.

Additionally, GBEP works in synergy with other relevant initiatives, including: FAO's Bioenergy and Food Security Projects (BEFS and BEFSCI); International Biofuels Forum (IBF); International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy (IPHE); Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme (MEDREP); Global Methane Initiative (GMI); Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21); Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP); UNCTAD BioFuels Initiative, and Bioenergy Implementing Agreements and related tasks of the IEA.

GBEP Secretariat

The GBEP Secretariat, hosted at FAO Headquarters in Rome with the support of Italy, is the principal coordinator of the Partnership communications and activities.

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