GBEP “Programme of Work”

1. GBEP Report – The way forward
2. Facilitating collaboration on bioenergy field projects
   GBEP 4th Steering Committee meeting

Concept note for consideration by the GBEP Steering Committee

Background
The Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) was established to implement the commitments taken by the G8 +5 Countries in the 2005 Gleneagles Plan of Action to "promote the continued development and commercialisation of renewable energy by […supporting] wider, cost effective, biomass and biofuels deployment, particularly in developing countries where biomass use is prevalent".

In 2007 it was given a renewed mandate by the G8 Heiligendamm Summit to “continue its work on biofuel best practices and take forward the successful and sustainable development of bioenergy”.

In light of these mandates and as part of GBEP’s ongoing efforts to monitor the global status of bioenergy development and work towards the sustainable development of bioenergy, the GBEP Steering Committee (New York, 8 May 2007) agreed to draw up the GBEP Report, which represents a milestone in the GBEP’s programme of work.

The GBEP Report provides an overview of current bioenergy development in G8 +5 Countries which helps identify where there is common ground in policy priorities and opportunities for international cooperation as well as provide guidance on what still needs to be done for the sustainable development of bioenergy.

On the basis of the GBEP Report and in view of the 2007 G8 mandate “to continue [its] work on biofuel best practices and take forward the successful and sustainable development of bioenergy”, the GBEP Steering Committee is invited to make further efforts to this end.

1. GBEP Report – The Way Forward

Proposal
The GBEP Report highlights a number of considerations related to current bioenergy development that need to be taken into account in order to avoid creating new environmental or social problems. Exchanging information on best practices could facilitate the successful and sustainable development of bioenergy. Best practices are activities/initiatives highlighting a technique, method, process, incentive or reward that is more effective in delivering a particular outcome than any other technique, method, process, etc.
Action
The GBEP Steering Committee is invited to have an initial discussion on how the GBEP Report could guide the partnership’s future work towards the sustainable development of bioenergy.
The GBEP Steering Committee is also invited to request the GBEP Technical Working Group (TWG) to discuss the issue in detail and to provide recommendations on how GBEP could make best practices and sustainable development of bioenergy a major area of its work.
2. Facilitating collaboration on bioenergy field projects

Proposal

Consistent with the GBEP Terms of Reference, Partners are invited to explore possible ways to facilitate collaboration on bioenergy field projects.

To this end, it is important to increase collaboration in GBEP with developing country partners and private sector.

The following working options are suggested:

1. exchange of information on results and lessons learned from projects related to GBEP thematic areas;
2. focus on specific themes agreed on by GBEP Partners, within which different Partners carry out individual projects in cooperation, contributing to a common objective;
3. co-implementation of specific GBEP projects mutually agreed by Partners.

In order to proceed, GBEP Partners should:

Option 1. Identify priority project themes for exchange of information. GBEP will act as a facilitator. A comprehensive account of relevant ongoing/completed bilateral activities will facilitate the identification of joint areas of interest and facilitate the process of sharing information/results on specific themes and identifying best practices.

Option 2. Identify specific priority themes for future GBEP collaborative activities. On the basis of these themes, GBEP Partners will carry out individual projects in cooperation with each other. GBEP will act as a facilitator.

Option 3. Identify specific projects/programmes/themes/activities in which they would like to work in collaboration as Partners and submit concrete proposals. The co-implementation of specific projects mutually agreed by Partners will be developed under the GBEP umbrella.

Action

The GBEP Steering Committee is invited to have an initial discussion on this proposal and to request TWG to explore how to develop new project proposals and collaborative implementing modalities.