

6th GBEP Task Force meeting on GHG Methodologies

Paris, 8 July 2009

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Chair Summary

The Task Force on GHG methodologies of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) held its sixth meeting in Paris on 8 July 2009. Brazil, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA, European Commission, FAO, IEA Bioenergy, Observatoire Méditerranéen de l’Energie (OME), UN Foundation and UNEP participated in the meeting.

The Task Force has completed and published the “Version Zero” of the “*GBEP Common Methodological Framework for GHG Lifecycle Analysis of Bioenergy*” (June 2009). The methodological framework is intended to provide a flexible tool for communicating and comparing methodologies used in GHG lifecycle assessment (LCA) of bioenergy systems. “Version Zero” is the first product in what is expected to be an on-going process of improvements and updates based on user experience. Therefore, GBEP encourages biofuels producers, industry groups, and regulatory bodies to utilize the framework when reporting biofuels LCA and to provide comments and feedback on points requiring clarification or modification.

At its sixth meeting, the Task Force convened to discuss future work, including testing of the methodological framework “Version Zero”.

Next steps

The Task Force welcomed the publication of the methodological framework and agreed to extend “testing” to early 2010 in order to allow Partners and Observers to reach out to government agencies and stakeholders to perform tests of the framework, and to collect feedback with a view to improving Version Zero.

A Partner gave a brief presentation on its testing of the methodological framework and provided comments on the compilation of the “testing questionnaire”.

It was agreed that a dedicated Partners-only web page will be set up on the GBEP website in order to allow Partners and Observers to fill in an interactive version of the Version Zero framework, to provide and exchange comments with other Partners and Observers, and to upload relevant documents and available studies. Furthermore, in order to provide GBEP members with examples of how the framework can be used, it was also agreed to upload on the GBEP dedicated Partners-only web page all the tests volunteered by Partners and Observers so far.

With reference to dissemination of the methodological framework, the Task Force identified several measures:

- Bilateral cooperation activities between GBEP members and other countries/institutions/stakeholders. Several Partners reported that the methodological framework has already been included in their bilateral agreements for the implementation of bioenergy projects in developing countries. It was also noted that tests of the methodological framework could be mainstreamed into capacity building programmes to encourage developing countries to use it;
- Distribution to relevant stakeholders and international initiatives;
- Posting a clear invitation to test the framework on the GBEP website.

It was agreed that the GBEP Secretariat, in support of the co-Chairs, will act as focal point providing interested countries/institutions/stakeholders with further explanation and access to information resources during the testing phase. The GBEP Secretariat will also receive and compile feedback from interested countries/institutions/stakeholders.

In early 2010, once a significant number of tests have been completed and collected, the Task Force will convene a meeting to define an Action Plan to improve the framework and to outline a format for an inventory of LCA methodologies reported by users of the framework.

The Task Force welcomed the suggestion to hold *ad-hoc* GBEP workshop for interested countries/institutions/stakeholders, possibly to be held at the upcoming UNFCCC COP 15 in Copenhagen, to facilitate the exchange of information and experience on the testing phase.

Timeline

July 2009/January 2010	Testing phase.
December 2009	GBEP workshop to facilitate the exchange of information and the reporting results of the testing phase.
February/March 2010	Task Force meeting.
May 2010	Improved version of the GBEP GHG methodological framework for submission to the Steering Committee meeting.