1st Meeting of the GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)

Contribution by the German Delegation
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Overview of presentation

• Part 1: Our view on required capacity to implement GBEP indicators

• Part 2: An example of a GBEP project on piloting indicator implementation & other future plans

• Part 3: Related German experiences, activities and lessons learned
Part 1: Required capacity to implement GBEP indicators

- Capacity required at national level + field level + operations / upstream level in producing countries
- GBEP’s main focus is the national level (government policies and strategies)
- However, for specific projects expertise of countries at producers level (farmers etc.) may be of high value
Part 1: Important aspects at national level

Core business: data collection, data storage, data analysis, informing the indicators

- assess data availability and human and institutional capacity;
- tailor methodologies for measuring the indicators to country conditions;
- define a data collection strategy and fill major data gaps;
- establish baseline values for the indicators;
- identify training needs and help put the pilot countries in a position to measure the indicators periodically;
- facilitate multi-stakeholder discussion of baseline indicator values and their implications for policy objectives over the coming years;
Part 1: Important aspects at national level

But also:

• familiarize stakeholders with the indicators and key associated concepts;

• assess the practicality of the GBEP tool and suggest recommendations for its improvement and future use.

• Support stakeholders in informed decision making:
  – by placing indicators into proper domestic context, including information on legal, policy, and institutional frameworks
  – By designing, developing, and implementing policies related to sustainable bioenergy production and use

• Strengthening cross-cutting and multisectoral analysis and decision making, to achieve sustainability in a broader sense
Part 2: German ICI pilot project

- Germany funds through its International Climate Initiative a one year piloting project in Colombia and Indonesia, managed by FAO, due to finish in September 2012

- objective: pilot test GBEP sustainability indicators in different national contexts to validate their feasibility and enhance their practicality as a tool for policymaking

- support GBEP Partners in defining technical and financial assistance needs
Part 2: German ICI pilot project and future plans

- **Status quo:**
  - country overviews
  - stakeholder mapping
  - identification and early discussion with researchers and institutes working in areas relevant to the indicators

- **Immediate next steps:**
  - Hiring national consultants
  - kick-off meetings with stakeholders
  - development of detailed work plans with government officials and researchers

Testing of GBEP indicators in Germany is foreseen for 2012/13
Part 2: Example from Thailand

- Project on sustainable palm oil production in Thailand: Inter alia other activities (certification of smallholders, GHG accounting etc.) setting up of national monitoring system for palm oil production - start Jan 2009:
  - Set up national working committee to cross-check GBEP indicators with domestic needs and fit them to Thai context
  - Set up of interdisciplinary teams to monitor the indicators and cross-check data already available
  - Analyze and evaluate data available and data collected from the field
  - Set up process to continuously monitor afterwards
Part 3: Lessons learned from Thailand

- Requires high budget and number of staff
- Central monitoring coordination government unit required, because data availability in various agencies – such coordination body is a MUST
- Coordination between Ministries and Departments not all the time easy
- Investment in reliability and validity of the data, as many inconsistencies exist. Additionally - very often – data are kept secret
- Investment in data base system required, as well as proper training to maintain and run the system
- Staff required from various agencies – other agencies must be convinced to join even though their direct business is not bionenergy/palm oil/sugar cane/crop specific etc.
- Encourage people to air their views
Part 3: German experience/ contribution

- German funding for FAO Bioenergy and Food Security (BEFS): Analytical framework for decision makers to develop bioenergy in harmony with food security; and for
- FAO Bioenergy and Food Security Criteria and Indicators (BEFSCI): to catalogue and showcase innovative approaches that have been used in sustainable bioenergy initiatives.
- Germany is active in IEA Bioenergy Implementing Agreement with relevant work on
  - LCA and GHG emissions of bioenergy
  - Sustainable bioenergy trade, biorefineries
  - Bioenergy and Land Use Change (LUC)
  - Bioenergy and fuel poverty
Part 3: German experience/ contribution

• Bilateral conferences and workshops on sustainable bioenergy with Brazil
• Exchange with Ukraine and Russian Federation: Networking; promotion of sustainable biomass conversion technologies with synergies for agriculture, industry and environment
• Active contribution to sustainability standardisation of bioenergy (ISO/PC/248)
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