The GBEP Technical Working Group (TWG) held its 9th meeting in Washington D.C. on 19 May 2011, kindly co-hosted by the Government of the United States of America and the UN Foundation. Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Paraguay, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, ECOWAS, FAO, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), IEA, UN Foundation, UNEP, and Global Environmental Facility (GEF), also on behalf of the World Bank, participated in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Brazil.

Further to the invitation of the 9th and 10th Steering Committee meetings (respectively in Tunis and in Rome, 2010) to continue working together towards a swift agreement on the new GBEP focus area, the 9th Technical Working Group (TWG) in Washington D.C. was invited to consider a revised scope and programme of work for a new Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy. This document, dated 9 May 2011, reflected comments provided by GBEP Partners and Observers at and further to the TWG meetings in Tunis and in Stockholm (May 2010 and March 2011 respectively).

The revised scope and programme of work for the new Working Group was presented to the TWG and discussed paragraph by paragraph. After some discussion and further clarifications the TWG modified and subsequently agreed on the scope and programme of work of the new GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy. The TWG submitted this agreed document to the 11th Steering Committee for endorsement (see Annex).

Numerous Partners and Observers expressed strong willingness to start collaborating on capacity building projects and related activities soon.

Along the path to sustainable bioenergy

Mr Paul Bryan from the US Department of Energy and Mr Jeffrey J. Steiner from the US Department of Agriculture gave presentations on the US experience on the promotion of bioenergy production and use in the United States of America.

Next steps

- 1st meeting of the Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy - September/October 2011 in Rome or third week of November 2011 in Japan (tbc).
Annex

GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy

Scope and Programme of Work
19 May 2011

The 11th Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) Steering Committee is invited to consider and endorse the proposed scope and programme of work set out below for a new Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (Working Group). The input and comments provided by Partners and Observers at the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Technical Working Group meetings in The Hague, Tunis, Stockholm and Washington, D.C., respectively, have informed this revised document.

The G8 Leaders tasked the GBEP to promote the optimum use of bioenergy for sustainable development. The deployment of modern bioenergy that promotes sustainable development will advance the following goals: (1) mitigating climate change, (2) reducing atmospheric and indoor air pollution, (3) increasing energy security, and (4) promoting development by encouraging investment, improving infrastructure, and increasing productivity and access to energy and to markets. By involving national governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders, GBEP provides a unique forum for guiding and promoting these discussions through sharing of information and experiences and advancing capacity building on the sustainable development and deployment of bioenergy. GBEP adds value by bringing together a disparate and diverse group of experts and officials from Partner and Observer countries and international organizations from throughout the world.

Purpose

Building on GBEP’s Terms of Reference adopted on May 11, 2006, the purpose of this Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (Working Group) is to take a holistic approach to develop and deploy sustainable bioenergy through partnerships and to support wider, cost-effective biomass and biofuels deployment, particularly in developing countries. GBEP promotes a country-driven process that empowers countries and communities to assess local circumstances and determine domestic needs in order to establish a rational and well-thought-out modern bioenergy program that meets nationally-determined goals of sustainable development. To meet its nationally-determined goals of sustainable development, a country should consider the economic, environmental, and social aspects of developing and deploying modern bioenergy.

The purpose can be achieved through dialogue and cooperation between and among GBEP Partners and Observers, which can be extended to national and sub-national governments, research institutes, intergovernmental, international, and non-governmental organizations, and private sector entities that are not represented in GBEP. Through this effort, interested entities will voluntarily partner to develop and implement projects and activities intended to build capacity to optimize the contribution of bioenergy to sustainable development and to enhance development and deployment of sustainable modern bioenergy, including feasibility studies for market building activities done in cooperation with interested
developing countries. Cooperative activities should focus on priorities and areas of relevance for developing countries, including through South-South cooperation. Particular efforts should be made to secure the engagement of countries that use traditional biomass to encourage their transition to sustainable modern bioenergy.

**Scope and programme of work**

The scope of work for the new Working Group will build upon, but not be limited to, the work of the GBEP Task Forces on GHG Methodologies and on Sustainability. The Task Force on GHG Methodologies developed “The GBEP common methodological framework for greenhouse gas lifecycle analysis of bioenergy” for the use of policy makers and stakeholders when assessing GHG emissions associated with bioenergy and to make GHG lifecycle analyses more transparent. The Task Force on Sustainability developed a set of sustainability indicators for bioenergy, intended to guide any analysis of bioenergy undertaken 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.

The Working Group will have the same status as the Task Forces within the GBEP structure and is not subordinate to the other; all report to the Steering Committee. The Working Group will promote the dissemination, use, and implementation of the outcomes of the two Task Forces through its activities and projects and will raise awareness of the potential benefits of sustainable modern bioenergy through multiple means, including workshops, study tours, public forums, and other ways to present sustainable practices and assess resources. Therefore, the Working Group programme of work may consist of activities and projects to be carried out collaboratively by interested Members bilaterally and/or multilaterally.

The activities and projects\(^1\) developed within the Working Group will be country driven. Its main focus will be to facilitate collaboration among GBEP Partners and Observers for capacity building projects and related activities. The Working Group and the GBEP Steering Committee will not be a decision-making forum for project approvals. The Working Group aims to develop a repository of information and insights gained from experiences and outcomes from these activities and projects. These experiences and outcomes may inform and improve the previous work of GBEP in the two Task Forces by providing feedback on the practical application of sustainability indicators and the GHG methodological framework, and may also present possibilities for new and different areas of work.\(^2\)

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\(^1\) In accordance with the GBEP Terms of Reference (art. 6.2), all matters related to intellectual property and the treatment thereof arising from cooperative activities of the Partnership will be addressed on a case-by-case basis within the specific context in which they appear, bearing in mind the purposes of the Partnership.

\(^2\) In light of discussions on the issue and considering the state of the science on quantifying possible indirect land-use change (ILUC) impacts of bioenergy, it has not yet been possible to include an indicator on ILUC. GBEP notes that further work is required to improve our understanding of and ability to measure indirect effects of bioenergy such as ILUC and indirect impacts on prices of agricultural commodities. GBEP will continue to work in order to consolidate and discuss the implications of the current science on these indirect effects, develop a transparent, science-based framework for their measurement, and identify and discuss options for policy responses to mitigate potential negative and promote potential positive indirect effects of bioenergy.
The Working Group will facilitate cooperation and capacity building through sharing information, stimulating discussion, and identifying opportunities for cooperation on sustainable bioenergy development and deployment, as well as facilitating sharing of lessons learned, identifying and disseminating information about existing tools and resources available from both the public and private sources and facilitating appropriate linkages between them.

Given GBEP’s pioneering role of creating a high-level global dialogue on promoting sustainable bioenergy, of supporting national, regional and international bioenergy policy discussions, and of facilitating international cooperation and market development, including encouraging collaborative project activities in the bioenergy field, the Working Group will strive to complement and not duplicate the work of bilateral and regional initiatives, other multilateral groups, and other relevant international organizations.  

**Membership**

Membership in the Working Group is voluntary and is open to all interested GBEP Partners and Observers. One or more Members of the Working Group may propose individual activities and/or projects. Based upon the assessment of needs and resources performed by the Partners and Observers proposing the activities and/or projects, other GBEP Partners, Observers or stakeholders can participate. Participation in a project is voluntary, it involves providing voluntarily support and resources – financial and/or in-kind – to be decided and managed on a case-by-case basis directly by interested Members. All Partners and Observers engaged in GBEP capacity building projects and activities, as outlined below in the Working practices, will be considered Members of the Working Group. One or two Members will Chair or co-Chair the Working Group for a two-year period. This period can be renewed by agreement of the Members of the Working Group.

**Working practices**

The Working Group will establish its own procedures and will report to the Steering Committee. The activities and projects within the Working Group will be initiated, managed, and executed by the members of the Activity Groups, who are interested in implementing a specific activity or project. Interested Members, with the assistance of the Secretariat as needed, should prepare and circulate to the other Working Group Members a summary of the intended activity or project for their consideration and potential participation. It is anticipated that each project or activity will promote the overall goal of optimizing the production and use of modern bioenergy for sustainable development.

Membership in an Activity Group is purely voluntary. GBEP Partners, Observers and stakeholders are eligible to join an Activity Group based upon an assessment of needs and resources performed by the initiators of this Activity Group provided they give some form of in-kind and/or financial support to the activity or project, such as staff time and resources for possible travel to meetings. A minimum of two GBEP Partners and/or Observers are required to form an Activity Group. The Activity Group will determine its own procedures,

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3 In accordance with the GBEP Terms of Reference, Annex A, the Secretariat keeps and regularly updates an inventory of existing networks, initiatives, and institutions dealing with bioenergy in order to avoid duplications and allow integration and leveraging of international activities, including those of UN agencies and programmes.
including the frequency and location of meetings, its work plan, and coordination and communication. Activity Groups can work with the Secretariat, as appropriate and as resources allow, to implement some of its activities and functions, including coordinating, planning, and organizing meetings, preparing documents, and disseminating information to participants in an activity or project. On the basis of the availability of funds, the Secretariat will continue to work as the main coordinator of communications and activities of the Partnership.

An Activity Group is encouraged to provide, as appropriate, to the Working Group a progress assessment and will present the project results and outcomes to the Working Group. Upon completion of the project, the Activity Group will prepare for the Working Group a report summarizing outcomes, lessons learned, and examples of practices and experiences, as appropriate. The Working Group, in turn, will coordinate with the Activity Group to communicate these results to the Partnership and the Steering Committee. Once the Steering Committee has received these results, the Secretariat will disseminate this information to all interested parties, including other Partners and Observers.