Biofuels in Latin America and the Caribbean: OAS Technical Assistance

Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) at Rio+20
What is the OAS?

- World’s oldest regional organization – Formed in 1890 at First International Conference of American States

- Is the premier forum for multilateral dialogue and concerted action in Latin America and the Caribbean

- GS/OAS serves 34 member states of the hemisphere

- Representative Offices in most of its member states

- Department of Sustainable Development

- Energy and Climate Change Mitigation Section

See for more info: www.oas.org
In March 2007, the U.S. and Brazil signed the bilateral agreement to promote the development and use of biofuels in the Americas.

The OAS was designated as a collaborating institution in the implementation of the alliance and it is playing a critical role in the execution of technical assistance programs and projects for sustainable bioenergy in the region.

The Department of Sustainable Development, through its Section on Energy and Climate Change Mitigation, manages a series of bioenergy initiatives with LAC third-party countries.
What is the US-Brazil Biofuels Partnership?

- **Goal:** Support the development of biofuels policy and programs within partner countries

- **Partner Countries (Third Party Countries)**
  - **Caribbean:** Dominican Republic, St. Kitts and Nevis, Haiti, and Jamaica
  - **Central America:** El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras

- **What is the objective of the initiative?**
  - Support development and local use of biofuels
  - Reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels
  - Share knowledge/best practices from US and Brazil experience with and among partner countries
Challenges for Bioenergy in LAC

- Lack of technical information regarding biomass resources
- Poor energy and agricultural infrastructure for bioenergy development
- Lack of human and institutional capacity
- Absence of legal frameworks and regulations that address the development of bioenergy
- Lack of knowledge in the general public about the benefits that can be attained through the development and use of bioenergy
- Smallholder farmers in LAC face high certification costs
The OAS - Promoting Sustainable Bioenergy

The OAS promotes the development of Sustainable Bioenergy as a strategy in support of:

- Rural development (employment, business development, infrastructure)
- Energy Security / Energy Diversification
- Contribute to sustainable emissions reductions
- Promote the development of sustainable biofuels policies
- Promote better management practices
- Capacity building
Plan of Action

A. Facilitate the Articulation of adequate policy and regulatory frameworks for biofuels development.
   • Technical Assistance for Sustainable Bioenergy Market Development
   • Technical Assistance to support the articulation of National Biofuel Policy & Regulations

B. Project Identification identifying potential initiatives for biofuels production and use.
   • Mapping of Bioenergy resources

C. Feasibility studies on biofuels production and use.
   • Exploring opportunities for pilot project in Blending
   • Exploring opportunities for pilot project in Production

D. Support the Creation of a Sustainable Biofuels Network.

E. Support other Clean Energy and Climate Change Mitigation Initiatives.
Dominican Republic

- **Objective**: Support policy implementation for biofuels –ethanol–development and its domestic use.

- **Key Activities-Status:**
  - Definitional Mission for Biofuels Development (Winrock)-Done
  - Stakeholders consultation-Done
  - Biofuels Development Country Assessment (FGV)-Done
  - Technical Assistance for Biofuels Market Development (ESG)-Done
  - Support Small Scale Rural Bioenergy Project – Done
  - Support RET pilot project (PV system) -Done
  - Exploring new opportunities for biofuels development-In Progress
El Salvador

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  - Feasibility Studies on Biofuels Development and Country Assessment (FGV)-**Done**
  - Technical Assistance for Biofuels Market Development (ESG)-**Done**
  - Support Small Scale Rural Bioenergy Project – **Done**
  - Exploring new opportunities for biofuels development and pilot projects-**In Progress**
Honduras

• **Objective:** Technical assistance for small scale production of ethanol.

• **Key Activities-Status:**

  - Promote institutional capacity building: Conferences and workshops - **Done**
  
  - Definitional Mission and Multi-Sectoral Meeting - **Done**
  
  - Elaboration of Terms of References for Ethanol Production Pilot Project - **In Progress**
Capacity Building and Info. Exchange Field Missions in the Region

- Renewable Energy Meeting and Tour in Miami and Technical visit to Brazil

  - To facilitate the sharing of know-how, experiences and good practices on the implementation of biofuels activities.

  - To facilitate the exchange of advanced technology and applications.

  - To facilitate the exchange of information on biofuels policy and regulations.

  - To strengthen cooperation among participating countries.

Government delegates on the US-Brazil Renewable Energy Meeting & Tour, Miami 2010

Country delegates from El Salvador, Guatemala, Dominican Rep., Brazil, USA, and the OAS, Feb, 2011
Where are we going…?

• OAS/DSD is committed to promoting sustainable bioenergy and sustainable agriculture.

• The development of a carbon-neutral biofuels based on sustainable management and agricultural practices is of major importance to meet the sustainability principles that we have committed to as a member of GBEP.

• It is necessary to demystify bioenergy based on sustainable principles to attract investment into the sector to improve socio-economic development and environmental protection in LAC countries.
Thank you!

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