Bioenergy and the broader bioeconomy

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16th meeting of TFS, Rome, 29 November 2018
Background

- ‘Non-paper’ to be used as a basis for an exchange of views on this emerging theme in the context of the 16th GBEP Task Force on Sustainability meeting
- Developed by GBEP Secretariat upon request of a few Partners
Bioeconomy

- The bioeconomy describes the ‘utilization of biological resources, biological processes and principles to sustainably provide goods and services across all economic sectors’ (GBS, 2015)
  - food, feed, fuel, fibre and biochemicals
- Rely on natural resources such as land and water, along with healthy ecosystems and their associated services
Trends

• Demand for agricultural and forestry products is rapidly increasing

• >>Increasing pressures on the natural resource base and ecosystem services due to overexploitation and pollution

• Growing interest in the bioeconomy and its sustainable development – represents not only a challenge but may be an opportunity to tackle many societal issues concurrently

• Important in the context of changing climate
Bioenergy as part of the bioeconomy

- Bioenergy forms part of the bioeconomy
- There are synergies and trade-offs between bioenergy and other components
Sustainability

- Bioenergy is identified as integral to the achievement of SDG 7, as well as GHG emissions targets under the Paris Agreement (IRENA, 2018)
- The sustainability of bioenergy cannot be considered in an isolated manner
- Importance of developing holistic guidelines for the sustainable development of bioeconomy
The role of GBEP

GBEP has the opportunity to have an important – and possibly even unique – role to play in facilitating exchange of views and dialogue, and promote joint understanding, considering “bioenergy within the bioeconomy” context.
The floor is open for discussions on this topic!