



8th Bioenergy Week and Study Tour for Capacity Building

*Online Conference, 16-18 March 2021
11.00 – 16.00 East Africa Time (EAT)*

Concept note and agenda

In cooperation with:



With the support of:



1. Background

The 8th Bioenergy Week of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) is held in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), African Energy Commission (AFREC) and African Union Commission (AUC). Given the current situation of the global pandemic, the event will be taking place online in a virtual format, 16 – 18 March 2021.

GBEP has been holding the GBEP Bioenergy Weeks since 2013 and has visited Brazil, Mozambique, Indonesia, Hungary, Argentina and the Philippines in the first and second cycle of regional events. The GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building (WGCB), under the co-leadership of the ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and Argentina, has stressed the enormous added value of these regional events in terms of capacity building and information sharing and has strongly supported a new cycle of these regional events starting with the eighth Bioenergy Week to focus on issues relevant to Africa.

The 2021 Bioenergy Week will enhance learning from positive experiences on sustainable production and use of bioenergy integrated within food production value chains, to support the design and implementation of bioenergy policies in Africa. Furthermore, it will provide the opportunity to continue a dialogue with the private sector and other stakeholders on ways to improve cooperation towards more sustainable production and use of bioenergy.

2. Bioenergy Development in Africa

Many African households depend on traditional bioenergy consumption to fulfil energy demands, and the share of solid fuel use (charcoal and firewood) in total final energy consumption in the region is the highest in the world. In 2017, the bioenergy consumption in Africa represented 50% of the total final consumption, almost 210 943 ktoe. In countries like Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, for example, firewood and charcoal represent 96%, 80% and 82% respectively of residential energy consumption (AFREC Energy Efficiency Indicators 2018).

Production and consumption of bioenergy in Africa have direct impacts on biodiversity, water and soil quality, as well as on many social and economic aspects of primary relevance for developing countries. In particular, indoor household air pollution from traditional cookstoves induces wide-scale respiratory diseases inflicting massive annual casualties, production of solid biomass impacts natural forest ecosystems, and lack of modern energy services can negatively impact social and economic development.

Since the adoption of the resolution on the Africa Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines by the African Union Assembly in 2013, AUC, ECA and AUDA-NEPAD have spearheaded significant activities, in partnership with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to encourage African member states to adopt modern bioenergy technologies and practices. The adoption of the Policy Framework was followed by the implementation of a technical support programme directed towards training on modern bioenergy technologies and policies, as well as on bioenergy project development. Lessons learned from this mainstreaming of bioenergy in the energy economy of African countries include:

- The increase in electrification rates across Africa has not brought the expected decrease in biomass energy usage in rural and urban settings.

- Almost all African countries and regional institutions have policies and even targets on renewable energy (mainly in solar, hydro, wind and geothermal) but very few have prioritized modern bioenergy development.
- The majority of African countries have not succeeded in introducing clean cooking fuels and technologies, especially in rural areas.
- Competition within the renewable energy space is high. Bioenergy is competing with other renewable energy technologies for policy prioritization and investment.
- Amongst a myriad of international programmes and financing mechanisms, few focus on the promotion of bioenergy in Africa.
- Many countries have little capacity to develop a range of bankable bioenergy projects. Many of the identified projects are small scale with limited impact.
- The majority of project sponsors or project developers lack financial means to fund some of the early project activities, such as pre-feasibility studies, and project structuring packaging.

As a consequence of the above, the business case for bioenergy is not very strong because of lack of solid networks to assist in incubating ideas as well as the lack of institutional support at country level. In response to this, the AUC Specialized Technical Committee mandated the AUC and ECA to assist RECs to develop and implement bioenergy investment strategies for the African regions and its plans in the period 2019-2020. These plans and strategies provide a roadmap for each African region on bioenergy development as well as catalyzing investments in bioenergy projects.

3. Objectives

The 2021 Bioenergy Week fosters the discussion and exchange of experiences and skills, and showcases the practicality of sustainable bioenergy services to support its accelerated implementation in Africa. It also builds on the ongoing support of AFREC, AUC, ECA and other regional partners in accelerating the role of bioenergy in the energy economy of Africa. It will serve as a platform for strengthening cooperation between African member states and specialized institutions for increasing the provision of sustainable energy services.

Specifically, the Forum aims to:

- Demonstrate the state of global and regional bioenergy, policies and regulations;
- Present the state of the regional bioenergy situation and efforts to enhance further the share of modern bioenergy within the regional energy mix;
- Present the current status of the bioenergy sector in Africa, sharing challenges, lessons learned and opportunities from all over the world, to stimulate modern bioenergy implementation and replication in Africa;
- Discuss successful, replicable bioenergy systems that provide sustainable modern energy services;
- Showcase available relevant technologies, R&D, feedstock and financial instruments of partners and investment firms;
- Engage stakeholders on bioenergy best practices to maximize sustainability and contribute to meeting SDGs and countries' NDCs; and
- Provide a platform to the private sector to facilitate a viable bioenergy market in Africa, as well as investments in new bioenergy technologies for local applications.

GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building (WGCB)

Study tour for capacity building and training (Activity Group 3) Agenda for the 8th Bioenergy Week

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3
<p style="text-align: center;">OPENING Welcome speeches</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL POLICIES</p> <p>Bioenergy development and regulatory frameworks in Africa. State of the art, challenges and lessons learned</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUSTAINABLE BIOENERGY AS A CONTRIBUTION TO LAND CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Exchange of experiences and opportunities for feedstocks, technologies and investments.</p> <p>Speakers will be invited to make cross cutting references to sustainability and to value chains approaches, challenges and opportunities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BIOECONOMY OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICA</p>
Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break
<p style="text-align: center;">SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAINS FOR FOOD, ENERGY AND LIVELIHOOD SECURITY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Exchange of experiences and opportunities for biomass, technologies and investments.</p> <p>Speakers will be invited to make cross cutting references to sustainability and to value chains approaches, challenges and opportunities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BIOENERGY REPORTING AND STATISTICS IN AFRICA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LIQUID BIOFUELS IN URBAN AREAS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Exchange of experiences and opportunities for feedstocks, technologies and investments.</p> <p>Speakers will be invited to make cross cutting references to sustainability and to value chains approaches, challenges and opportunities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GBEP YOUTH AWARD</p> <p>Certificate awards will be delivered in recognition of the most remarkable and outstanding research works in the field of bioenergy carried out by students. Brief presentation of the awarded researches and delivery of the award certificates.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OUTCOME DOCUMENT: BREAK-OUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROUNDTABLE: <i>Discussion between policymakers, business sector and international Banks/Funds</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">BANKABILITY OF BIOENERGY PROJECTS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KEY MESSAGES AND CONCLUSIONS</p>

- 11:00 – 11:20 **Opening and Welcome Remarks**
- Mr. William **LUGEMWA**, Director of Private Sector Development and Finance Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
 - Dr David **PHIRI**, FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa & Representative to the African Union (AU) and ECA
 - Amb. Luiz Eduardo de Aguiar **VILLARIHNO-PEDROSO**, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil, GBEP Co-Chair
 - Her Excellency, Dr Amani **ABOU-ZEID**, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, AU/AFREC
 - His Excellency, Dr Frehiwot **WOLDEHANNA**, State Minister for Energy, Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, Ethiopia

➔ *OPENING LIVE POLL*

- 11:20 – 12:30 **Global, regional and national policies**
Moderator: Mr Robert LISINGE, Chief, Energy, Infrastructure and Services Section, ECA
- International Energy Agency (IEA) global vision for bioenergy to regional and local strategies to accelerate deployment.
Mr Ilkka HANNULA, Senior Energy Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA)
 - Overview of the role of bioenergy in the African energy sector.
Mr Rashid Ali ABDALLAH, Executive Director, AFREC/African Union
 - Rural bioenergy development and promotion in Ethiopia.
Mr Michael Gessese TESEMA, Director General, Ethiopian Rural Energy Development and Promotion Center, Ethiopia
 - The contribution of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP).
Dr Maria Michela MORESE, Executive Secretary, GBEP

Q&A session

- 12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch break**
Interactive Slido “word wall”

- 13:30 – 15:00 **Sustainable Value Chains for Food and Energy Security**
Moderator: Mr Crispen ZANA, Principal Energy Advisor to the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), Secretariat of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP)
- ➔ *LIVE POLLS*
- The experience in the ECOWAS region with programmes supporting sustainable value chains.
Mr Guei Guillaume Fulbert KOUHIE, ECREEE, Praia, Cape Verde

- The experience in the SADC region with programmes supporting sustainable value chains.
*Ms Kornelia **IIPINGE**, SACREEE, Namibia*
- Sustainable bioethanol and biogas from cassava as an opportunity for food security.
*Mr James **OGBONNA**, University of Nigeria, Nsukka*
- Role of bioenergy in enhancing agricultural value chains.
*Mr Medhat **EL-HELEPI**, ABEE, UNECA*
- Co-generation in Africa.
*Mr Farhan **NAKHOODA**, Project Director, Uganda*
- Proving the Opportunity of Cooking with Ethanol in Ethiopia: Gaia Clean Energy.
*Harry **STOKES**, Project GAIA*
- Increasing food security through bioenergy plants: The experience of the East Africa Renewable Energy Partnership (EAREP) Project.
*Ms Esther N **NYANZI**, Chief Executive, Uganda National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Alliance, Uganda*

Q&A session

15:00 – 16:00

Bioenergy reporting and statistics in Africa

Moderator: Mr. Jean Yves **GARNIER**, International Energy Expert, France

➔ LIVE POLLS

- Mr Gbaty Tiadja **GBANDEY**, Head of Information Systems and Regulation at the Ministry of Energy and Mines, Togo
- Mr. Ian **KISAWUZI**, Statistician at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Uganda
- Mr Jean Marie **BADIATA KAYEMBE**, Head of Households and Biomass at the Ministry of Energy, DR of Congo
- Ms. Nolwazi Innocentia **KHUMALO**, Senior Energy officer, Energy Data, planning and economy, Eswatini

11:00 – 13:00 **Sustainable bioenergy as a contribution to land conservation and restoration**

*Moderator: Ms Joan Cuka **KAGWANJA**, Chief, Agriculture and Business Enabling Environment (ABEEE), Private Sector Development and Finance Division, UNECA*

➔ *LIVE POLLS*

- Sustainability of biogas and solid biomass value chains in Ethiopia.
*Mr Berhane **KIDANE**, Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute*
- Cross border charcoal trade: implications for sustainable woodfuel value chains in Africa.
*Ms Phosiso **SOLA**, ICRAF*
- Sustainability assessment of the sugarcane bagasse briquettes residues by the tea industry in Kenya.
*Ms Rocio A. **DIAZ-CHAVEZ**, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Kenya*
- Experience from Togo.
*Mr Mangola **BLEZA**, Ministry for the Environment and Forestry Resources, Togo*
- Experience from Ghana.
*Mr Cisco **AUST**, GIZ*
- Sustainable bioenergy and reforestation experience in Kenya.
*Mr Meshack **MUGA**, FAO Kenya*
- Producing pellets in Ghana.
*Mr Pragnesh **MISHRA**, Abellon CleanEnergy Ghana*
- Agro-forestry practices using Gliricidia to increase food and sustainable food and energy access. The case of Sri Lanka and opportunities in West Africa.
*Ms Lucky **DISSANAYAKE**, Biomass Group Sri Lanka, Mr Dennis **GARRITY**, Global EverGreening Alliance and Mr Bah **SAHO**, ECOWAS/ECREEE*

Q&A session

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch break**
Interactive Slido “word wall”

14:00 – 15:20 **Liquid biofuels in urban areas**
*Moderator: Prof Suani **COELHO**, USP, Brazil*

➔ *LIVE POLLS*

- The experience of Brazil.
*Prof Suani **COELHO**, USP, Brazil*
- Ethanol production business in Lusaka.

*Prof Thomson **SINKALA**, Chairman, Thomro Biofuels, Zambia*

- Sugarcane bioenergy potentials in Southern Africa – Study by IRENA.

*Mr Seungwoo **KANG**, IRENA*

- The experience of KOKO Networks.

*Mr Ed **AGNEW**, Koko Networks*

Q&A session

15:20 – 16:00

GBEP Youth Award

Moderator: Ms Constance Miller, GBEP Secretariat/FAO

- GBEP's commitment to youth engagement
Ms Constance Miller, GBEP Secretariat/FAO

Delivery of the award certificate to the winner of the GBEP Youth Award in recognition of the most remarkable and outstanding research work in the field of bioenergy carried out by students in Africa.

- Presentation of the awarded research
Winner of GBEP Youth Award

- 11:00 – 12:40 **Bioeconomy opportunities in Africa**
*Keynote speaker and Moderator: Mr Monga **MEHLWANA**, Energy Infrastructure and Services, Private Sector Development and Finance, ECA*
➔ *LIVE POLLS*
- Lessons learnt from mainstreaming modern bioenergy development in Africa (2012-19).
*Mr Peter **KINITHUA**, Energy Division, Department of Infrastructure and Energy, AUC*
 - Opportunities for generating diesel from animal fat in Botswana.
*Mr Boikie **MABOWE**, Managing Director, Biodiesel Botswana, Gaborone*
 - Integrated phytomining and Ethanol Production in the Zambian Copperbelt.
*Prof Thomson **SINKALA**, Chairman, Thomro Biofuels*
- Q&A session*
- 12.40 – 13.40 **Lunch break**
Interactive Slido “word wall”
- 13.40 – 14.40 **Bioenergy Week Outcome Document**
13.40 – 14.20 *Discussion in break-out groups*
Participants will be divided into break-out groups to discuss the outcomes of the Bioenergy Week and future vision of bioenergy in Africa.
- Moderators (Discussion group in English): Mr Monga **MEHLWANA**, UNECA and Mr Rashid Ali **ABDALLAH**, AFREC/AU*
- Moderator (Discussion group in English/French): Ms Maria Michela **MORESE**, GBEP*
- Moderator (Discussion group in French): Mr Yagouba **TRAORE**, AU*
- 14.20 – 14.40 **Break-out groups reporting back to the Plenary**
- 14.40 – 15:40 **Roundtable – Bankability of bioenergy projects: Challenges and Opportunities**
Moderator: Ms Meghan Sapp, Managing Director, PlanetEnergy
➔ *LIVE POLLS*
- No silver bullet: the need for building coalition within the renewable energy sector.
*Mr Brian **HEALY**, USGC*
 - Diversification for a Sustainable Sugarcane Industry
*Mr Flavio **CASTELLARI**, APLA, Brazil*

- Enabling advanced biofuels industrial deployment: key factors
*Mr Dario **GIORDANO**, Versalis*
- Bioenergy for Sustainable local energy services and Energy Access in Africa.
*Mr Chris **SIM**, E4Tech*
- The experience of SABIA supporting biogas projects
*Mr Alberto **BORELLO**, Secretary General, Southern African Biogas Industry Association (SABIA)*

Moderated discussion

15:40 – 16:00

Conclusions, approval of Outcome Document and closing remarks

- *Ms Maria Michela **MORESE**, GBEP Executive Secretary*
- *Mr Rashid Ali **ABDALLAH**, Executive Director, AFREC/African Union*
- *Mr Robert **LISINGE**, Chief, Energy, Infrastructure and Services Section, ECA*