

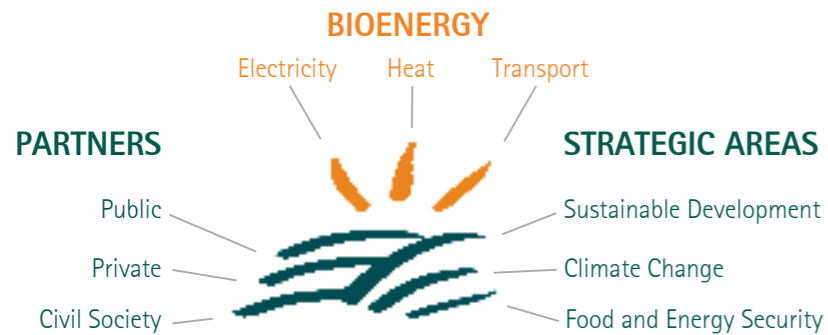
THE GLOBAL BIOENERGY PARTNERSHIP

- > **Strong political commitment** to promote bioenergy in line with energy security, climate change and food security considerations.
- > Focus on **biomass** as a key renewable energy source.
- > A **voluntary forum** to facilitate international dialogue.
- > Priority given to **developing countries**.
- > **Exchange of information, knowledge, skills and technologies** – North-South, South-South, South-North, North-North.
- > Engagement of the **private sector**.
- > **Visibility** of bioenergy opportunities and challenges at international level.
- > **Integration** of bioenergy into development initiatives.
- > Improved **coordination** across sectors and between public, private and civil society stakeholders.

GBEP works in synergy with other relevant initiatives, including: Biofuture Platform, FAO's Bioenergy and Food Security (BEFS), Global Methane Initiative (GMI), International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy (IPHE), Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), UNCTAD BioFuels Initiative, and Bioenergy Implementing Agreements and related tasks of the IEA.



ENERGY



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GLOBAL BIOENERGY PARTNERSHIP WORKING TOGETHER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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GBEP – A GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO BIOENERGY



In the 2005 Gleneagles Plan of Action, the G8 agreed to launch a Global Bioenergy Partnership to support wider, cost effective, biomass and biofuels deployment, particularly in developing countries.

Following a consultation process among developing and developed countries, international agencies and the private sector, the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) was launched at the 14th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) in **New York on 11 May 2006**.

From its establishment GBEP has received continuing support and renewed mandate from the G7/G8 and G20.



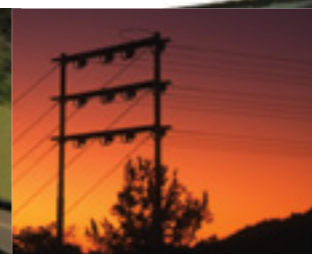
WHAT DOES GBEP DO?

GBEP provides a forum to develop effective policy frameworks to:

- > suggest rules and tools to promote sustainable biomass and bioenergy development;
- > facilitate investments in bioenergy;
- > promote project development and implementation;
- > foster R&D and commercial bioenergy activities.

GBEP's main functions are to:

- > promote global high-level policy dialogue on bioenergy and facilitate international cooperation;
- > support national and regional bioenergy policy-making and market development;
- > favour efficient and sustainable uses of biomass and develop project activities in the bioenergy field;
- > foster exchange of information, skills and technologies through bilateral and multilateral collaboration;
- > facilitate bioenergy integration into energy markets by tackling specific barriers in the supply chain.



WHAT IS BIOENERGY?

Traditional and modern bioenergy currently account for around 13% of total global primary energy consumption.

- > Bioenergy is a clean source of energy produced from biomass – **wood, energy crops and organic wastes and residues**.
- > **Different regions** and agroecological zones provide different forms of biomass used to make bioenergy.
- > Biomass can be used to produce **electricity, heat, solid, gaseous and liquid fuels for transport**.
- > **The majority of rural people in developing countries rely on bioenergy** – mostly traditional fuelwood, charcoal and dung for cooking and heating.
- > **Liquid biofuels** account for around 2% of road transport fuels worldwide but growth rates and future potential are significant. Current main biofuels are bioethanol (based on sugars and starches) and biodiesel (based on plant oils and animals fats). Biofuels produced from ligno-cellulosic feedstocks are in the development stage.

Bioenergy systems can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by substituting for fossil fuels.



WHO ARE GBEP'S PARTNERS?

GBEP brings together public, private and civil society stakeholders.

Current partners are:

Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Fiji, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Mauritania, Mexico, Netherlands, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, United Kingdom, United States of America, ECOWAS, European Commission, FAO, IDB, IEA, IRENA, UNCTAD, UN/DESA, UNDP, UN Environment, UNIDO, UN Foundation, World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE) and European Biomass Industry Association (EUBIA).

Chair: Italy, Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea.

Co-Chair: Brazil, Ministry of External Relations.

The GBEP Secretariat, hosted at FAO Headquarters in Rome with the support of Italy, is the coordinator of communications and activities.

GBEP welcomes contributions to its Programme of Work.

WHAT IS GBEP'S PROGRAMME OF WORK?

The Partnership builds its activities upon three strategic areas: *Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Food and Energy Security*.

In the short term the Partnership will seek to:

- > Facilitate the sustainable development of bioenergy and collaboration on bioenergy field projects for market building activities, in cooperation with developing countries;
- > Facilitate capacity building for sustainable bioenergy; and
- > Raise awareness and facilitating information exchange on bioenergy.

In December 2011 GBEP released the report "The Global Bioenergy Partnership Sustainability Indicators for Bioenergy" to guide analysis at the domestic level and to inform decision-making that encourages the sustainable production and use of bioenergy. The indicators are currently in the implementation phase in a number of countries at both regional and national level, to enhance their practicality as a tool for policymaking.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN BENEFITS FROM BIOENERGY?

- > Sustainability: a clean and renewable energy source
- > Availability: increased access to energy in rural areas
- > Flexibility: power, heat and transport
- > Energy Security: diversified energy mix, domestic sources
- > Mitigation of climate change
- > Diversification of rural livelihoods, facilitating rural development
- > Reduction in land degradation

WHAT ARE THE KEY CHALLENGES?

- > Ensuring sustainability
- > Safeguarding food security
- > Protecting biodiversity
- > Managing competition for land and water
- > Controlling pollution of air, water and soils
- > Removing barriers to biomass and bioenergy trade

The sustainability of bioenergy is linked to the whole life cycle of production, processing, conversion and use.