

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE ECOWAS/GBEP 5TH BIOENERGY WEEK

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SESSION 1: BIOENERGY POLICY AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENT

- The work of AFREC was presented and it was noted that the major challenges related to implementation are: financial weakness at AUC and state level, lack of expertise in project development and presentation, limited private sector involvement, lack of awareness of the importance of modern bioenergy.
- The ECOWAS Bioenergy Policy (EBP) and the 2030 targets in terms of renewable energy were presented. It is now important to translate this into national policy.
- Country experiences in Senegal, Niger and Ghana were presented to show the diversity of experiences in the ECOWAS region.

SESSION 2: SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAINS FOR FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY

- This session focused on private sector experiences.
- Different technologies were discussed, including: gasification; biogas from human and animal waste; and palm oil residues and waste water.
- There were presentations on both large and small scale operations.
- The main conclusions were that:
 - We need guaranteed provision of raw material/feedstock
 - We need to be cautious of competitive usage of biomass feedstocks
 - Spread of knowledge and R&D is important
 - Buy-in and social acceptance from local population is key
 - Private financing is strong and public finance in projects should be reinforced
 - Business plans/funding and training are key

ECOWAS SPECIAL SESSION: REPORT ON DEVELOPING STANDARDS FOR BIOFUELS IN THE ECOWAS REGION

- A report on regional standards for bioenergy for the ECOWAS region was presented.
- The three main elements of standards (sustainability standards, operational standards and fuel quality standards) could have many potential benefits when applied to the ECOWAS region.

SESSION 2 (CON'T): SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAINS FOR FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY

- Results of SWOT Analysis on large-scale were presented as a result of a preliminary questionnaire circulated prior to the event, and SWOT analysis on small-scale biogas was conducted.
- The main conclusions were:
 - Need for a holistic approach
 - Biogas is not a 'one-size-fits-all' solution – need to take into consideration the local context through feasibility studies
- A follow-up survey will be sent to all participants to carry out a detailed SWOT Analysis on small-scale, the results of which will be shared at the GBEP Meetings in Rome in November 2017, for the consideration of the Activity Group on Biogas under the Working Group on Capacity Building.

SESSION 3: RESOURCES ASSESSMENT, OPTIONS AND STRATEGIES

- Presentations were given on project experiences in various countries to provide lessons learnt.
- The main lessons learnt:
 - The need for data in order to develop national/regional plans
 - The need for feasibility studies, both in terms of availability of feedstock and the demand for bioenergy
 - The need to assess competitive uses of feedstocks and the potential social and environmental impacts of use of feedstock for bioenergy
 - Public awareness raising and training are important

SESSION 4: SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL MECHANISMS AND BUSINESS PLANS FOR BIOENERGY SYSTEMS

- An overview of the Green Climate Fund was given.
 - 2.2 billion USD, over 40 projects, has already been provided
 - There is a focus on Africa – 45% of the total has been provided to Africa
 - Country ownership and gender sensitivity are the key principles of the GCF
 - Energy is one of the four priorities under climate change mitigation
- An overview of other funding opportunities was given: ECOWAS Bank for Investment Development (min. 5 mil USD projects); AfDB; BNDES; Climate Investment Fund; USAID; World Bank Annual Competition Market Place; SID Award; UNDP; Shell Foundation; Gates Foundation; RECP...
- The importance of well-developed, 'bankable' projects was stressed and the need for capacity building in this area was discussed.

THANK YOU

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