

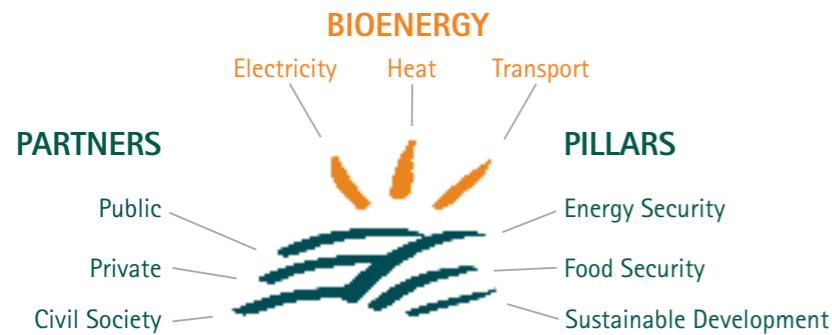
THE GLOBAL BIOENERGY PARTNERSHIP

- > **Strong political commitment** to promote bioenergy in line with energy security, climate change and food security considerations.
- > Focus on **biomass** and **bioenergy** 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: FAO's International Bioenergy Platform (IBEP), International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy (IPHE), Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme (MEDREP), Methane to Markets, Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), 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



GBEP – A GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO BIOENERGY



In the 2005 Gleneagles Plan of Action, the G8 +5 (Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa) 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.



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 10-14% 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 biofuels are bioethanol (based on sugars and starches) and biodiesel (plant oils and animals fats). Second-generation biofuels (including ethanol and biodiesel based on cellulosic feedstocks) are in the development stage.

Biofuel 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:

Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States of America, FAO, IEA, UNCTAD, UN/DESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UN Foundation, World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE) and European Biomass Industry Association (EUBIA).

Chair: Corrado Clini, Director General, Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea, **Italy**
Co-Chair: Juan Mata, Director General, National Energy Savings Commission, **Mexico.**

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 pillars: *Energy Security, Food Security, Sustainable Development.*

In the short term the Partnership will seek to:

- > Update the inventory of existing networks, initiatives and institutions dealing with bioenergy;
- > Identify gaps in knowledge or areas of weak understanding;
- > Carry out scoping of feasibility studies for market building activities, in cooperation with interested developing countries;
- > Establish mechanisms for raising awareness and dealing with issues of international relevance (e.g. environmental standards, food security, trade) and gaps in technology and policy;
- > Formulate standard guidelines to measure greenhouse gas emission reductions through the promotion and use of biofuels in the transport and energy generation sectors, including the development of baseline methodologies and monitoring tools to be used for project activities in the bioenergy field.

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.