

# COMPETE

Competence Platform on Energy Crop and Agroforestry Systems for Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems- Africa



## Project Description

COMPETE will establish a **platform for policy dialogue and capacity building** and identify **pathways for the sustainable provision of bioenergy**

- to improve the quality of life and create alternative means of income for the rural population in Africa
- to aid the preservation of intact ecosystems in arid and semiarid regions in Africa
- to enhance the equitable exchange of knowledge between EU and developing countries

## Objectives

The Competence Platform on Energy Crop and Agroforestry Systems for Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems – Africa (COMPETE) will bring together world-leading scientists, researchers, funders and practitioners from different fields and across the world to create a platform for discussion, knowledge exchange, policy and methodology development. It will use this concentrated expertise to provide strategic and practical guidance and tools on the provision of modern bioenergy for the sustainable and optimal usage of these special ecosystems.

The main objective of COMPETE is to identify pathways for the provision of bioenergy, which will:

1. **improve the quality of life for the inhabitants** e.g. poverty alleviation, value added activities, alternative means of income generation and providing options to reduce vulnerability whilst, in parallel;
2. **aid the preservation of the critical functions of arid and semi-arid regions in Africa** as intact ecosystems e.g. maintaining biodiversity and providing ecosystem services, and;
3. **enhance the equitable exchange of knowledge between EU and developing countries** in this critical area of activity.

A number of sub-objectives which represent the highly cross-sectoral nature of bioenergy provision and the breadth and depth of the scientific and technological objectives that COMPETE will integrate into providing useful decision making and implementation tools.

The long-term provision of secure supplies of bioenergy will require the evaluation of a large range of inter-related factors within a comprehensive analytical framework and associated decision making tools leading to a holistic policy development process. Factors, such as; the optimal and socially acceptable allocation of land between food, infrastructure, bioenergy and other uses; soil degradation; the impacts of, and on, climate change; water use; and, the potential for political conflict. These factors are closely linked to the problems that many regions in Africa are confronted with. A multi-sectoral cross-disciplinary approach is urgently needed to cope with these problems and the likely demands generated by high oil prices, and that reflects the emerging evidence base on ecosystem damage and tools for monitoring sustainability.

## Activities

COMPETE will deliver a matrix of multi-disciplinary and crosssectoral work-packages

- to evaluate current and future potential for the sustainable **provision of bioenergy** in Africa in comparison to existing land use patterns and technologies
- to facilitate **South-South technology and information exchange** capitalising the world-leading RD&D in bioenergy in the key countries Brazil, Mexico, India, China and Thailand
- to develop **innovative tools for the provision of financing** for national bioenergy programmes and local bioenergy projects, including: carbon credits, bilateral and multi-lateral funding instruments, and the role of international trade
- to develop **practical, targeted and efficient policy mechanisms** for the development of bioenergy systems that enhance local value-added, assist local communities and address gender inequalities
- to establish the **Competence Platform** to ensure effective dissemination and knowledge exchange inside and outside the network



EUBIA

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## Project Title

Competence Platform on Energy Crop and Agroforestry Systems for Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems- Africa

## Contract Number

INCO-CT-2006-032448

## Duration

January 2007 to December 2009

## Global Project Cost

1 497 000,00 Euro

## European Commission Contribution

1 497 000,00 Euro

## EUBIA Contribution

EUBIA is leader of the North-South Cooperation between Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe. This cooperation is done through special seminars, preparation of information and dissemination through the COMPETE competence platform. EUBIA is also participating in the disseminating process via our International Network.

## Project Website

[www.compete-bioafrica.net](http://www.compete-bioafrica.net)

## Participants

- 1 WIP – Renewable Energies, Germany - WIP (DE)
- 2 Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine Imperial (UK)
- 3 Utrecht University - RUUTR.STS (NL)
- 4 Stockholm Environment Institute - SEI (SE)
- 5 Austrian Biofuels Institute - ABI (AU)
- 6 Höhere Bundeslehr und Forschungsanstalt für Landwirtschaft, Landtechnik und Lebensmitteltechnologie Francisco Josephinum - FJ BLT (AU)
- 7 ETA - Energia, Trasporti, Agricoltura s.r.l. - ETA (IT)
- 8 European Biomass Industry Association - EUBIA (BE)
- 9 Practical Action Practical Action (UK)
- 10 Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - CNR (IT)

- 11 E+Co, Inc. (not funded) - E+Co (USA)
- 12 Institute for Sustainable Solutions and Innovation - ISUSI (DE)
- 13 AGAMA Energy (Pty) Ltd - AGAMA (ZA)
- 14 Center for Energy, Environment and Engineering Zambia - CEEZ (ZM)
- 15 Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde - ENDA-TM (SN)
- 16 Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network of Southern Africa - FANRPAN (ZIM)
- 17 FELISA Company Limited - FELISA (TZ)
- 18 Mali-Folkecenter - MFC (Mali)
- 19 MOI University - MU (Kenya)
- 20 Tanzania Traditional Energy Development and Environment Organisation - TaTEDO (TZ)
- 21 UEMOA - Biomass Energy Regional Program (PRBE) (BF)
- 22 University of KwaZulu Natal - UKZN (ZA)
- 23 University of Cape Town - Energy Research Centre - UCT, ERC (ZA)
- 24 Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences - CAAS (CN)
- 25 Centro Nacional de Referencia em Biomassa, Brazil - CENBIO (BR)
- 26 Indian Institute of Science - IISC (IN)
- 27 The Energy and Resources Institute - TERI (IN)
- 28 Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico - UNAM (MX)
- 29 Universidade Estadual de Campinas - UNICAMP (BR)
- 30 Winrock International India - WII (IN)
- 31 Interuniversity Research Centre for Sustainable Development - University of Rome "La Sapienza" - CIRPS (IT)
- 32 Universitetet i Oslo - UiO (NO)
- 33 University of Bristol - UNIVBRIS (UK)
- 34 University of Botswana - UB (Botswana)
- 35 University of Fort Hare - UFH (ZA)
- 36 TWIN (UK)
- 37 Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment - JGSEE (TH)
- 38 African Development Bank Group (not funded) - AFDB (Int.)
- 39 Energy for Sustainable Development Ltd. - ESD (UK)
- 40 Eco Ltd. (UK)
- 41 Chinese Association of Rural Energy Industry - CAREI (CN)
- 42 Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (not funded) - FAO (Int.)
- 43 Conservation International Foundation (not funded) - CI (USA)
- 44 Foederation Evangelischer Kirchen in Mitteldeutschland - EKMD (DE)



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