

The Global Bioenergy Partnership

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.

Purpose and Objectives

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.

Partners and Membership

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.

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 the 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 Makes GBEP Unique

GBEP aims to make a unique contribution to the sustainable development of bioenergy through its focus and membership:

- A specific focus on bioenergy as a key renewable energy source.
- Improved coordination on bioenergy both across sectors and between public, private and civil society parties.
- Facilitating the engagement of the private sector.
- Focusing on developing countries, where biomass use is prevalent, and facilitate an exchange of experiences and technologies not only North-South, but also South-South, South-North, and North-North.
- Raising visibility of bioenergy opportunities and issues at the international level and including bioenergy in relevant development initiatives.
- Reflecting and supporting the strong political commitment to promote bioenergy.

Additionally, 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.

GBEP Secretariat

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

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