



South at the Steering Wheel

Improving sustainability in land investment for bioenergy in sub-Saharan Africa

(NOTE: revised version as of 30 April)

Workshop Venue: Stockholm, Naturvårdsverket (Swedish EPA); Room: Klosterhavet

Date/time: **Tuesday, 29 May 2012, 8:00 – 17:30**



Several studies in recent years suggest significant potential for expanding the production and use of bioenergy in Sub-Saharan Africa, thereby contributing to improved energy security, rural development and climate mitigation. Other studies have called for caution when using agricultural lands for bioenergy due to concerns for food security, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity and other impacts.

Agricultural land investment needs to be evaluated from a balanced perspective of social, economic and environmental sustainability. A number of international organisations developed jointly the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) in pursuit of such objectives. Many other initiatives have been aimed at insuring bioenergy sustainability at the level of projects and programmes or integrating sustainability into national and regional markets.

Integrated analytical approaches will be required in order to evaluate bioenergy investment options to choose suitable and available lands and to maximise local benefits. At the same time each bioenergy feedstock has its own requirements and rationale with respect to nutrients, water, collection and processing, which in turn relate to organization, management, market structure and financing.

SIANI and SEI invite you to discuss and debate these issues in a workshop to address concerns relating to specific feedstocks alongside the application of integrated approaches and methods. Breakout groups will discuss the feedstocks and methods in more detail. After the workshop, interested participants can follow up on specific sub-topics for further analysis with the aim of developing a set of coherent policy briefs, scoping papers and one or more journal articles.

Focus areas of the workshop include:

- Analysing biofuel feedstock options - particularly sugarcane, palm oil, cassava and jatropha
- suitability/availability analyses and integrated assessment approaches
- land quality and the use of degraded lands
- Economics/Organisation/Management: outgrowers, estate, ownership options
- Financing options

Outline of Workshop Programme (subject to minor modifications)

- 8:00-8:30: Coffee and registration
8:30 Welcome and Introduction: **Melinda Sundell, SEI/SIANI**

Morning Session: feedstocks and development/project land investment lifecycle

- 8:45 Introduction to morning session: **David Bauner, Renetech**
9:00 Jatropha: **Thomson Sinkala, Thomro farms** (Zambia) and Univ. of Zambia
9:15 Sugar cane: **Jorgen Sandström, Addax Bioenergy** (Sierra Leone)
9:30 Cassava: **Boma Simeon Anga, Cassava House** (Nigeria)
9:45 Palm oil: **Sylvester Dery, Palm Oil Research Institute** (Ghana)
10:00 Discussion and Instructions for break-out groups
10:30 Coffee break
10:45 Break-out groups
12:00 Reporting from break-out groups

12:30-13:30 Lunch

Afternoon session: land/agriculture/bioenergy investment – where, what, how, who

- 13:30 Introduction to afternoon session: **Francis X. Johnson, SEI**
13:45 Land Suitability: **Helen Watson, University of Kwazulu Natal** (South Africa)
14:00 Land quality (use of degraded lands): **Birka Wicke, Utrecht University** (Netherlands)
14:15 Integrated approaches (ecosystem services): **Per Stromberg, Swedish EPA**
14:30 Small-scale farmers/land productivity: **Peter Roberntz, WWF-Sweden**
14:45 Discussion and Instructions for break-out groups
15:15 Coffee break
15:30 Break-out groups
16:45 Reporting from break-out groups

17:15 Workshop closing

18:00 Drinks and dinner

Note: The number of participants is limited to 20-25, so early registration is encouraged. Registration will close 21 May 2012 or when maximum is reached. Please fill in the attached form to register.

For questions, contact Francis X. Johnson, francis.johnson@sei-international.org.



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