



IEA Bioenergy

Workshop announcement

Sustainability of bioenergy supply chains

Presentation and discussion of interim results
of the IEA Bioenergy inter-task project on
Measuring, governing and gaining support for
sustainable bioenergy supply chains

18-19 May 2017

Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel

Södra Hamngatan 59, Gothenburg, Sweden

hosted by Chalmers University

Background and aim

Sustainability of liquid and solid biofuels production is under continued scrutiny, including topics such as iLUC, food vs. fuel, forest carbon accounting and sustainable forest management principles. Sustainability criteria and metrics differ between feedstock and final end use (road transport vs. heat & power, size of end-use, no criteria for aviation, shipping & materials yet). At the same time, the public debate on bioenergy is heated, often based on emotions and political agendas. Part of the controversy is different approaches to governance and the partial or perceived failure of these systems to ensure the sustainability of bioenergy supply chains. Obviously, definitions of 'sustainable bioenergy' also depend on different views and perceptions of stakeholders both within and outside the value chains, and this may confuse the discussion.

To address the challenges embedded in this situation, the IEA Bioenergy inter-task project on "Measuring, governing and gaining support for sustainable bioenergy supply chains" is pursuing three main objectives:

1. To provide an overview and examples of calculation methods & tools to assess the sustainability of various biomass and bioenergy supply chains and discuss needs, possibilities and limitations of global, uniform/harmonized framework.
2. To compare and assess the legitimacy, including effectiveness and efficiency of a variety of approaches on how to govern and verify sustainability of biomass and bioenergy supply chains in different conditions.
3. To understand the positions and underlying motivations of stakeholder groups relative to their perceptions of bioenergy and inform dialogues/discussions to avoid misconceptions and gain trust in bioenergy

This project was started in mid-2016, and under the three objectives, a multitude of studies have been initiated, focusing largely on the agriculture, forestry and biogas sectors (see also the program below).

The aims of this workshop are two-fold:

- 1) To share preliminary project results of the work carried out under the three objectives to an audience of both members of IEA Bioenergy and informed stakeholders from industry, policy, the NGO community and other, and
- 2) To obtain feedback from these stakeholders on the results, identification of possible knowledge gaps to properly address the overall project aim, and issues which should additionally be addressed in the remainder of the project.

Especially with regard to the second aim, there will be ample opportunity to discuss with the project participants and other stakeholders during the workshop.

General program overview

During the first plenary morning session, the project leaders will introduce the general aims of the project, give an overview of the applied methodologies and how the different parts of the project are interlinked.

Next, in a first parallel session on *measuring sustainability* (objective 1 of the project) will focus, amongst others, on methodological aspects of assessing sustainability of forest bioenergy systems, including various challenges for LCA and other assessment tools supporting governance, assessing the climate effect of forest bioenergy systems, and how to analyse ecosystem services in landscapes. A second parallel session will cover the topics of sustainability governance and stakeholder involvement with a focus on *agricultural supply chains*. Presentations will cover amongst others the conceptual approach used for the work under objective 2 on trust, credibility and effectiveness of sustainability governance; the sustainability governance of the bioeconomy and policy analysis of governance for sustainable agricultural biofuel in Europe, with a focus on Denmark and Canada. Additionally, the measurement of sustainability parameters in US agricultural systems will be addressed. At the end of day one, a plenary session will be held to report back and discuss the findings of the first day. The first day will be finalized with a joint dinner at the expense of the participants.

On Friday morning, we will have three parallel sessions. The first session will be a general debate on *how to assess the climate effects of bioenergy systems*. The second session will feature *sustainability governance and stakeholder involvement of biogas plants* through three phases of development in Germany and the impact of the legislative framework on the implementation of biogas in Denmark. The third session will focus on *governance and stakeholder involvement on forestry supply chains*, amongst other as set in Quebec and Ontario (both Canada) and the South-East of the US, including international standards for both forestry and agriculture and involve governance approaches and stakeholder involvement for the use of woody biomass for biorefineries and the production of wood pellets.

After lunch, we will continue in plenary, but focus on the *position of supranational stakeholders* on the future role of bioenergy. Preliminary results of a series of consultations of various stakeholders groups on their positions towards bioenergy will be shown, and possibilities will be discussed if – and how – “common ground” on widely acceptable bioenergy supply chains and levels could be reached. The workshop will be finalized with a roundtable discussion. During the final plenary session, we will attempt to draw general conclusions and lessons from the various case studies and identify of possible gaps and issues to address in the remainder of the inter-task project.

Note that the exact order of the presentations may still be subject to minor changes.

Detailed program overview

Thursday 18 May 2017																													
09.00-09.15	General workshop & project introduction. Presenter: Martin Junginger																												
09.15-09.30	Introduction to Objective 1. Presenter: Annette Cowie																												
09.30-09.45	Introduction to Objective 2. Presenter: Inge Stupak																												
09.45-10.00	Introduction to Objective 3. Presenter: Uwe Fritsche																												
10.00-10.30	General discussion on approaches																												
10.30-11.00	Coffee																												
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Friday 19 May 2017			
Objective 1: Measuring sustainability		Obj. 2&3: Governance and stakeholder involvement	
08.15-09.00	General discussion on methodologies to assess the climate effects of bioenergy systems	Sustainability governance and role of stakeholders in the different market phases of biogas development in Germany with a view to other countries. Presenters: Kay Schaubach and Daniela Thrän	Role of stakeholders' perceptions for bioenergy sustainability: Case of forest biorefinery in La Tuque, Quebec. Presenters: Evelyne Thiffault and Léonard Nkuzimana.
09.00-09.30		Discussion of governance and perceptions of sustainability of biogas	
09.30-10.00	Coffee		
10.00-10.30	Sustainable production of wood based bioenergy in the Southeastern US. Keith Kline and Virginia Dale (confirmed)		
10.30-11.00	Measuring, Documenting, and Communicating the Sustainability of Supply Chains within the Wood Pellet Industry of the Southeast U.S. Presenter: Brian Kittler (confirmed)		
11.00-11.30	Governance of sustainable forest management and bioenergy in Ontario. Presenter: Tat Smith (confirmed)		
11.30-11.45	Coffee		
11.45-12.30	Discussion of governance and perceptions of sustainability of forest-based bioenergy		
12.30-13.30	Lunch		
13.30-14.30	Positions of supranational stakeholders from agricultural, forestry and biogas sectors. Uwe Fritsche, Thuy Mai Moulin & Martin Junginger		
14.30-16.00	Roundtable & common conclusions, format to be announced.		

Registration

Participation is free of charge, but registration is mandatory. We encourage rapid registration as both the **number of workshop participants is limited to 100**, and the general available hotel capacity in Gothenburg is limited in this particular week due to a large sports event in the weekend. Registration can take place through the following website:

<http://www.trippus.net/IEAintertask>

Accommodation can be booked as follows:

<http://booking.meetx.se/en/accommodation>