



NL Agency  
Ministry of Economic Affairs

# **WORKSHOP on Sustainable Biomass Production in Southeast Africa**

***Maputo, Mozambique***

***19-21 March 2013***

## **Announcement**

## **Workshop background**

The agricultural sector in most Sub-Saharan African countries is currently dominated by subsistence farming with very low investment levels and yields. The development of modern bioenergy projects offers **opportunities for investment and infrastructure improvements** with the promise to diversify agricultural production and thus to stimulate socio-economic development.

Primary **drivers** for modern bioenergy promotion in Africa include security of energy supply, a reduction of the foreign exchange burden of oil importing countries, as well as environmental benefits such as the restoration of degraded land, reduced land abandonment, and the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, the development of modern bioenergy systems offers opportunities to diversify agricultural production and to stimulate socio-economic development.

On the other hand, **concerns** exist that bioenergy expansion in African countries may have severe negative impacts on biodiversity and the use of natural resources through increasing competition over land and water resources. Rising prices of agricultural commodities may negatively affect food security of the poor in developing countries and the implementation of large-scale bioenergy projects may cause negative social impacts such as conflicts over land ownership and displacement of rural communities.

In order to minimise risks and maximise benefits, in recent years several African countries and regional organisations (e.g. ECOWAS) have launched initiatives to establish sound **policy frameworks** for bioenergy in order to ensure environmentally, economically and socially sustainable production, promotion and use of bioenergy. Significant progress has been achieved in Mozambique with the National Biofuels Policy and Strategy (NBPS) published in May 2009 and the Biofuel Sustainability Framework in its final stages of development.

A large number of international **sustainability certification schemes**, such as ISCC, Bonsucro, RTRS, RSB, NTA 8080, have been developed and are currently used to guarantee sustainable production of bioenergy in many countries worldwide. The Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP), a voluntary partnership of developed and developing countries and international organizations, has recently developed 24 sustainability indicators for bioenergy. International organisations such as the FAO, UNEP and the UN Foundation have launched initiatives to support the sustainability of bioenergy production.

Today, the successful implementation of bioenergy projects in Africa, which show environmental, social and economic sustainability as well as clear benefits for the local population, is of great importance in order to proof and present societal benefits offered by the development of the bioenergy sector.

Therefore, NL Agency is since 2008 involved in the facilitation of projects and supplementary research in order to gain experience in the production and certification of sustainable biomass through the **Global Sustainable Biomass Programme** and the **Sustainable Biomass Import Programme** (the Netherlands Programmes for Sustainable Biomass – NPSB) as well as through the **Daey Ouwens Fund** (DOF). Through the support of certification, research and pilot/demonstration projects, NL Agency has acquired much knowledge and experience on biomass (for bioenergy) in, amongst other regions, southeast Africa.

In this workshop, NL Agency wants to share this knowledge and experience on the sustainable production of biomass in southeast Africa.

## **Workshop aims**

The workshop is organised by WIP Renewable Energies on behalf of NL Agency. During this workshop, the results of recent and on-going projects funded through the Global Sustainable Biomass Programme and the Sustainable Biomass Import Programme (the Netherlands Programmes for Sustainable Biomass – NPSB) as well as through the Daey Ouwens Fund (DOF) will be presented. More information about the projects: [www.agentschapnl.nl/biomass](http://www.agentschapnl.nl/biomass)

Main workshop aims include:

- Sharing the knowledge and experience gathered in the pilot projects with other project developers in the region, but also with a wider public
- Sharing knowledge and experience with national governments on sustainable biofuel policies
- Exchanging knowledge and experiences with other (international) organisations and international round tables on sustainable biomass production
- Attracting new partners and investors for the follow-up of the projects

## **Workshop outcomes**

The following main outcomes are envisaged for this international workshop on Sustainable Biomass Production in Southeast Africa:

### ***Development of sustainable biomass policies in the region***

Workshop participants will get a better understanding of options for the development and implementation of sustainable biomass policies by exchanging knowledge and experiences on sustainable biomass production. This will be achieved through the provision of information, new contacts, and inspiring examples of other companies, countries or regions.

### ***Maintain or increase the sustainability of biomass production in the region***

Workshop participants will learn of requirements to increase the sustainability in the production of biomass in their company, country or region. This will be achieved through the provision of information and tools for sustainable biomass production.

### ***Up-scaling of the projects and financing of follow-up activities***

Workshop participants will get a better understanding of actions to be taken to up-scale their project. This will be achieved through facilitating contacts and partnerships in the field of financing, development aid and project development.

## **Target groups and Participants**

Participants are key stakeholders from Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, and other African countries, as well as from the international bioenergy community. These include:

- Representatives of governments and public bodies in Southeast Africa
- International organisations and international round tables
- Experts and interested participants
- Researchers
- Industry
- Project developers

## **Workshop Organization**

### **Inviting Organisation:**

#### **NL Agency**

Croeselaan 15  
3521 BJ Utrecht  
The Netherlands  
[www.agentschapnl.nl](http://www.agentschapnl.nl)



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#### Contact:

Ella Lammers, Kees Kwant, Karin van Doorn

### **Event Organisation:**

#### **WIP Renewable Energies**

Sylvensteinstr. 2  
81369 Munich  
Germany  
[www.wip-munich.de](http://www.wip-munich.de)

#### Contact:

Dominik Rutz, Rainer Janssen, Cosette Khawaja  
T +49-8972012(739/743/740)  
[dominik.rutz@wip-munich.de](mailto:dominik.rutz@wip-munich.de)  
[rainer.janssen@wip-munich.de](mailto:rainer.janssen@wip-munich.de)  
[cosette.khawaja@wip-munich.de](mailto:cosette.khawaja@wip-munich.de)



## **Workshop Details**

*Conference Venue*                      *Maputo, Mozambique; venue to be defined !*  
*Conference Language:*            *English*  
*Conference fee:*                      *The conference is free of charge*  
*Registration:*                         *tbd*

## **Tuesday, 19 March 2013**

- **Registration**
- **Opening Session**
- **Keynote Speech**
- **Session 1:** Biomass policies in Southeast Africa
- **Session 2:** Sustainability of Bioenergy in Africa
- **Round Table:** The Future of Bioenergy Policies, Strategies and Sustainability Certification in Southeast Africa
- **Conference Dinner**

## **Wednesday, 20 March 2013**

- **Session 3:** Lessons learnt and the way forward of projects funded by NL Agency: Projects on Policies and Sustainability Certification
- **Session 4:** Lessons learnt and the way forward of projects funded by NL Agency: Pilot and Demonstration Projects
- **Session 5:** Business discussion forum Facilitating investment for sustainable bioenergy projects in Southeast Africa
- **Round Table:** Cooperation opportunities for the follow-up of bioenergy projects and programmes for Africa
- **Brokerage event:** Scheduled face-to-face bilateral meetings for future cooperation
- **Closing Speech**

## **Thursday, 21 March 2013**

- **Site visit:** Study tour to a selected bioenergy project in the vicinity of Maputo