

**Biofuels Certification- UK Perspective
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Certification, what does it means?

- ✓ Different concepts
 - Rich versus poorer countries
- ✓ Concern in developing countries
 - No another technical barrier
- ✓ How to control it
- ✓ How much does it costs
- ✓ How reliable is certification
- ✓ Academic versus practical reality
- ✓ Many bodies/organizations
- ✓ Too little consensus
 - Cultural ... realities



UK View

- ✓ The UK Government has made a commitment to put the UK on a path towards a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 60 per cent by 2050.
- ✓ The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) will help bring the UK closer to meeting European Union Directive 2003/30/EU
- ✓ The UK Government claims that the RTFO will save around one Mt of CO₂ in 2010
 - the equivalent of taking a million – of the UK's 30 million – cars off the road.



Transport biofuels

- ✓ In the UK, the main policy mechanism for meeting the EU's Biofuels Obligation (1 European Commission, 2003) is the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO).
- ✓ The RTFO re-quires suppliers of transport fuels to ensure that 5 % (by vol-ume) of all fuel supplied to the market comes from renewable sources by 2010/11.
- ✓ UK Government included in the RTFO a requirement that *all suppliers must report on the greenhouse gas savings and broader sustainability of the fuel they supply.*



UK Perspective

- ✓ The UK Government is developing a carbon and sustainability assurance scheme as part of the RTFO.
- ✓ Companies subject to the Obligation will be obliged to report on the carbon savings they achieve and other aspects of the sustainability of their biofuel supplies.



Transport fuels

There are concerns that a rapid expansion of biofuels supply could lead to serious negative environmental impacts. Broadly these can be categorized as:

- ✓ Biodiversity loss and associated negative ecosystem impacts. For example, the replacement of natural forest with biofuel crops such as palm oil. A potentially harmful tendency to-wards local monoculture.
- ✓ Impacts on the local water supply leading to scarcity, poor water quality and degradation of land.



Biofuels..

- ✓ The degradation of soil and/or erosion where biofuels are grown on unsuitable soils.
- ✓ Increased emissions of CO₂ as a result of land use changes, for example from loss of rainforest. Emissions of CO₂ in the process of growth, production and distribution that – in the extreme case – can wipe out gains from CO₂ absorbed in the growth phase (7 LowCVP, 2006).



Principles and Criteria for a draft standard for biofuel production

Principles and Criteria for a draft standard for production of biofuel crops

- ✓ * *Conservation of carbon stocks*
- ✓ Protection of above-ground carbon
- ✓ Protection of soil carbon
 - * *Conservation of biodiversity*
- ✓ Conservation of important ecosystems & species
- ✓ Basic good biodiversity practices
- ✓ * *Sustainable use of water resources*
- ✓ Efficient water use in water critical areas
- ✓ Avoidance of diffuse water pollution
- ✓

Principles and Criteria

- ✓ * *Maintenance of soil fertility*
- ✓ Protection of soil structure and avoidance of erosion
- ✓ Maintain nutrient status
- ✓ Good fertilizer practice
 - * *Good agricultural practice*
- ✓ Use of inputs complies with relevant legislation
- ✓ Use of inputs justified by documented problem
- ✓ Safe handling of materials
- ✓ * *Waste management*
- ✓ Waste management complies with relevant legislation
- ✓ Safe storage and segregation of waste
- ✓ (7 LowCVP, 2006)



Social criteria, the key issue

- ✓ Child labour
- ✓ Freedom of association
- ✓ Discrimination
- ✓ Health and safety
- ✓ Forced labour
- ✓ Wages
- ✓ Working hours (Plus standard only)
- ✓ Contracts and subcontractors
- ✓ Land rights



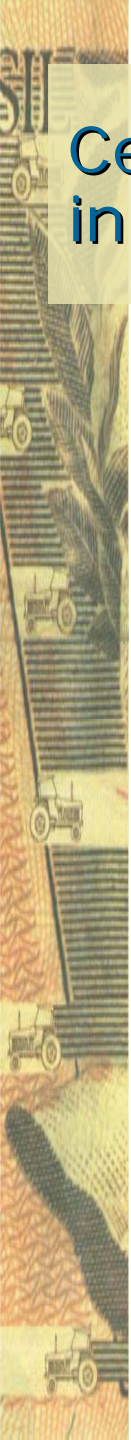
Certification vs. barriers

- ✓ The question is, will our concern with the environment, sustainability, and biodiversity leads to the imposition of requirements so stringent that it will hinder (or even prevent) rather than enhance the development of biofuels?
- ✓ Will there be a fair playing field for biofuels?



There is not a perfect fuel!!

- ✓ There is not any magic formula or perfect fuel, and thus it is important to devise strategies that allow for the best possible use of biomass resources on a fair playing field.
- ✓ Biofuels are being subjected to unprecedented scrutiny
- ✓ Why aren't we applying the same criteria for all fuels, particularly fossil fuels?
- ✓ The UK government is leading on certification issues, but will it get it right?



Certification bioenergy (I): ongoing initiatives

- ✓ Governments: UK, NL, D, B, and more EU nations...; EC.
- ✓ NGO's:
- ✓ International bodies: UNEP, UNCTAD, FAO,...
- ✓ Market initiatives/multistakeholder: roundtables on palm, soy and biofuels, GGL, Electrabel,...

IEA Task 40: Van Dam et al., 2008;
Biomass & Bioenergy, available on the web

Certification bioenergy (III): concerted action...

- ✓ First time that governments actually try to set 'sustainability criteria' for a commodity! -> **Paradigm shift** with implications for food products, fodder, materials etc.
- ✓ This takes time (allow for learning).
- ✓ Varying degree of concern: palm oil/soy bean/corn... most debated, other (residues, wood) are approved by most stakeholders
- ✓ Methodological issues to be resolved: competition, biodiversity, a.o.
- ✓ Global convergence, dialogue and deployment priority (leaders needed).

IEA Task 40: Van Dam et al., 2008;
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End

✓ Thank you!!