



Side event at COP 22

Woody Biomass Energy to Meet NDCs and SDGs in Developing Countries

Tuesday, 15 November 2016
16:45 – 18:15
Room Pacific



The side event will showcase the role for sustainably produced energy from woody biomass in order to meet NDCs and SDGs in developing countries. Possible solutions to achieve sustainable biomass energy value chains including bamboo will also be presented.

Background

Achieving the SDG on energy requires ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030. While access to electricity has risen by 1.7 billion people between 1990 and 2010, around the world 2.7 billion people continue to rely on biomass as their primary energy source, and another 1.2 billion people live without electricity. According to the World Energy Outlook Report (2016), in more than four-fifths of sub-Saharan African countries, more than half of the population relies on solid biomass for cooking (usually firewood or charcoal), and in half of these countries, the share is above 90%. The mission of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) is to empower leaders to broker partnerships and unlock finance to achieve universal access to sustainable energy, as a contribution to a cleaner, just and prosperous world for all, but energy derived from biomass does not appear to be part of the solution.

The traditional use of woody biomass for household energy supply has been a strong driver of deforestation, land degradation and climate change in many developing countries. Under a business-as-usual scenario, expected rises in demand for woody biomass energy in the coming decades will intensify these impacts. In particular, it will strongly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions from the conversion of forested lands. Despite often being important commodities, many countries are opting out of woody biomass fuels in the attempt to promote so-called 'modern' energy systems, even if they are fossil fuel derived. This frequently results in a lack of necessary governance and regulation of the existing charcoal market, which is left to informal market actors, with the consequence of inefficient value chains, foregone tax revenues, corruption, and high consumer prices.

Given the trends in population growth, urbanization, relatively high costs for other energy sources, and cultural preferences, finding solutions that include energy derived from woody biomass appears to be a necessity if the SDG is to be reached without resulting in widespread landscape degradation. Biofuels from woody plants can be commodities that meet the requirements of modern energy systems and lead to improved and diversified livelihoods of rural communities in sustainable farming landscapes and healthy forests while providing urban consumers with a low-cost, high-quality product that can be used for cooking with minimal health risks. Achieving this requires a transformation of traditional land management with political will and integrated, evidence-based decision-making processes of public-private-civic partnerships as their driving forces.

Overview

Co-organizers ICRAF and INBAR will use this side event to promote woody biomass energy's role in helping developing countries meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Convention and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. SE4ALL will discuss how woody-based bioenergy in sub-Saharan Africa can help provide universal access to energy by 2030. Ministers from Madagascar and Ethiopia will discuss how their national development strategies are incorporating different sources of renewable energy, including bamboo charcoal, to implement their NDCs. The statements will be followed by a Q+A session with all the panelists. Following the discussion, ICRAF and INBAR will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on future collaboration.

The event is designed to answer the following questions:

1. What is the potential of woody biomass to contribute to achieving SDG 7 and the NDCs?
2. What are the challenges that need to be overcome to achieve this potential?
3. What do you believe are the solutions needed for ensuring the continued and sustainable supply of wood fuels for rural landscapes in developing countries?

Agenda

Time	Topic/Presenter
5 min	Introductions and presentation of participants <i>Henry Neufeldt (ICRAF)</i>
10 min	SE4ALL Statement on Woody Biomass Energy's Contribution Toward SDG 7 <i>Rachel Kyte, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and CEO for SEforAll</i>
10 min	Developing sustainable wood fuel cooking systems <i>Tony Simons, Director General of ICRAF</i>
10 min	Technical Overview of Bamboo Bioenergy and its Contribution to the Paris Agreement <i>Hans Friederich, Director General of INBAR</i>
15 min (5 min each)	Panelists' responses and statements <i>Johanita Ndahimananjara; Minister of Environment, Ecology, and Forests; Madagascar</i> <i>Kare Chawicha; State Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change; Ethiopia</i> <i>Kuntoro Mangkusubroto; Chair of the Steering Committee, Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility; Indonesia</i>
30 min	Q & A <i>Moderated by Henry Neufeldt</i>
10 min	Ceremonial signing of the ICRAF-INBAR MoU (TBC) <i>Hans Friederich and Tony Simons</i>

**** RECEPTION WITH SNACKS AND DRINKS ****

Background reading

International Energy Agency (2016) World Energy Outlook.URL:

<https://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/WorldEnergyOutlookSpecialReport2016EnergyandAirPollution.pdf>

International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (2014) Bamboo: A strategic resource for countries to reduce the effects of climate change. URL:

http://www.inbar.int/sites/default/files/INBAR%20Policy%20Synthesis%20Report1_Bamboo%20%26%20Climate%20Change.pdf

Neufeldt et al. (2015) [Developing sustainable tree-based bioenergy systems in sub-Saharan Africa](#). ICRAF Policy Brief No. 28 Nairobi, Kenya. World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF). URL:<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/news/new-icraf-policy-brief-developing-sustainable-tree-based-bioenergy-systems-sub-saharan-africa>

SE4ALL (2016) Strategic Framework for Results 2016-21.Sustainable Energy for All. URL:

http://www.se4all.org/sites/default/files/2016_EUSEW_LR.pdf

United Nations (2016) Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. Energy for Sustainable Development. URL: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/energy>