



International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development

Towards a Sustainable Bioenergy Strategy

- The Role of International Trade -

Organised by International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)

Venue: United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri Complex, Kenya

Acacia, World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF)

6 November 2006

15:15 - 16:45

Description

Many developing country regions are well predisposed to take advantage of the potential of bioenergy both for the purpose of domestic energy use, realising savings on import substitution, as well as by benefiting from exports. Yet, 38 out of 47 of the world's poorest countries remain net oil importers, with 25 of these importing all of their oil.

There, however, are many uncertainties as to how the potential of bioenergy could be harnessed in a sustainable manner. The global demand for energy is extremely huge and can hardly be met by supply from bioenergy. It is therefore critical that policies and mechanisms are in place, which would ensure that meeting such a demand would not lead to further environmental degradation such as deforestation and loss of biodiversity and adverse impacts on food security.

Several international trade issues need to be better understood in terms of their contribution to advancing a sustainable bioenergy agenda – market access for bioenergy, the question of which subsidies should be allowed and which should not, the need for and merit of having social and environmental standards as well as certification schemes.

This event aims to generate innovative thinking and engage key stakeholders in addressing this vast range of opportunities and challenges, assess sustainability challenges and try to identify viable solutions for harnessing the potential of bioenergy as a means of enhancing access to cleaner energy, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and contributing to income generation for improving rural livelihoods.

Agenda

Moderator: Heike Baumuller, Programme Manager, Environment and Natural Resources, ICTSD

Speakers

Trade in Bioenergy: Opportunities and Challenges

Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Senior Programme Manager – Environment Cluster, ICTSD

Policies and Rules for a Sustainable Biofuel Trade

Christophe Bellmann, Programmes Director, ICTSD

Discussants

Bioenergy Trade and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

Ancha Srinivasan, Principal Research Fellow and Acting Project Leader, Climate Policy Project, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Trade in Bioenergy: A View from Greenpeace

John Coequyt, Energy Policy Specialist, Greenpeace

Open Discussion

Closing Remarks

Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, ICTSD