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Criteria development in the Netherlands

Efforts and lessons

Huib Silvis

Netherlands Council for the Rural Area (RLG)

Green Gold and Friends of the Earth



Towards a framework for sustainable biomass



- Dutch government wishes to incorporate sustainability criteria for biomass into the relevant policy instruments
- Project group chaired by prof. Jacqueline Cramer
Members:
 - Government
 - Business: Shell, Cargill, Energy companies
 - NGOs (environment / development)

Testing framework for sustainable biomass



Final report from the project group
"Sustainable production of biomass"



Framework 'Cramer'



- Six themes of sustainability
- Nine principles, each with:
 - Criteria
 - Indicators and/ or
 - Reporting requirements
- Framework to be tested between 2007-2010

Six themes of sustainability



- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Competition with food supply and other local applications of biomass
- Biodiversity
- Environment
- Prosperity
- Social Well-being

Nine principles



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Green House Gas | positive balance |
| 2. Carbon sinks | not at the expense of ... |
| 3. Food supply | not endanger |
| 4. Biodiversity | not affect/ strengthen |
| 5. Soil quality | retain/ improve |
| 6. Water quality | maintain/ improve |
| 7. Air quality | maintain/ improve |
| 8. Local prosperity | contribute |
| 9. Social well-being | contribute |

Principle 1: Positive GHG balance



Criterion: Net emission reduction along the whole chain in relation to a reference situation with fossil fuels

Indicator: Emission reduction at least:
50 – 70 % for electricity
30 % for biofuels

Principle 3: Not to endanger food supply and other local applications



Criterion: Land use change in the region

Indicator: Reporting requirement, if information available

Criterion: Price changes of land and food in the area

Indicator: Reporting requirement, if information available

Principle 4: not affect / strengthen biodiversity



Five Criteria:

- No violation of relevant national laws
- No deterioration of biodiversity in protected areas (*Indicator: No biomass production in protected areas or 5 km around these areas*)
- No deterioration of biodiversity in other areas with high biodiversity value
- Maintenance or recovery of biodiversity within biomass production units
- Strengthening biodiversity, where possible

Additional testing framework at (inter) national level



At macro level, monitoring is necessary for:

- Land prices
- Food prices
- Ownership land
- Availability of food
- Relocation of production
- Deforestation and loss of nature reserves
- Changes in vegetation type

Follow-up



- Dutch government, energy companies, port of Rotterdam, WWF and Oxfam have agreed to:
 - put into practice a certification scheme and 'clearing house' by 2008/ 2009
 - execute pilots in exporting regions from 2008-2010
 - scale up certified biomass production and import by 2010 – 2015
- This year start with reporting requirement (incl. 'not known')

Some difficulties / limitations (1)



- Lack of agreement on how to measure GHG-emissions
- Not all criteria can be evaluated at company level
- Involvement producing countries is necessary
- International coordination required
- Several requirements/criteria limited by trade rules of WTO and EU

Some difficulties / limitations (2)



- Several criteria / indicators not quantitative: in many cases no yardstick available / only reporting requirement
- Should (and can) distinctions be made between raw materials used for food, feed or fuel?
- No distinction is made between Dutch, EU and non-EU origin. (Dutch concerns about landscape)

Lessons learned



- Not all negative effects can be avoided by certification
- Tracking and tracing (chain of custody) and inspections are necessary: complex, costly and time consuming
- Large number of actors should participate in setting up a scheme
- Certification can only work if there is enough production that meets the criteria
- Supply of proven sustainable and certified biomass can only be increased step-by-step

Conclusion & recommendations



At its best, certification only part of the solution towards sustainable biomass production

Alternatives to be explored:

- Generic legislation for land use and agricultural production
- Bilateral and multilateral cooperation with exporting countries (including capacity building)
- Strengthening private initiatives of Round Tables (Palm Oil, Soya, Biofuel)