

# Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

An initiative of the EPFL Energy Center



## **Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB)** Working group on IMPLEMENTATION (IMP WG)

### **Background documents - Paper 3** General information, principles and scope

#### **Co-chairs**

To be determined.

#### **Coordinator**

Charlotte Opal, [Charlotte.Opal@epfl.ch](mailto:Charlotte.Opal@epfl.ch). Charlotte leads the overall RSB and will also coordinate the IMP Working Group. She was previously Director of Product Development at TransFair USA, the Fair Trade certification agency, and currently chairs the Standards Committee at FLO, the international Fair Trade standard-setter. She is from Washington, DC and holds an M.Phil in Development Studies and an MBA from Oxford University.

#### **Purpose**

Within the RSB, the Working Group on Implementation (IMP WG) aims to ensure that the principles and criteria being developed in the other Working Groups are easy to implement and measure so that they are accessible by small-scale farmers and small-medium enterprises, and that they do not represent a barrier to trade. They will also make recommendations on future steps for the Roundtable, such as governance options and the potential value of independent third party certification.

The IMP WG will work on a participative basis, meaning that each participant can initiate discussions on the topics of concern, debate with the other participants and form contrary opinions. Each decision will be preferably agreed by consensus or by simple majority, but always through a democratic process of consultation. The communication and meetings will be held through any available technology that allows quick, clear and thorough exchanges among the participants with the aim of minimizing travel and consequent GHG emissions. This is why, in addition to the regional (cross-Working Group) stakeholder meetings that will be held in person, web communication (Bioenergy wiki: [http://www.bioenergywiki.net/index.php/Roundtable\\_on\\_Sustainable\\_Biofuels](http://www.bioenergywiki.net/index.php/Roundtable_on_Sustainable_Biofuels)), blogs, e-mails, and conference calls have to be used as often as possible.

#### **Membership**

Thus far, seventy people have registered for the Implementation Working Group, with a good balance of companies, NGOs, international organizations, academic researchers and experts. As with the other Working Groups, we have inadequate participation from Africa and southeast Asia, so please invite your contacts from these regions to participate, especially those involved

with certification, small farmer standards, and trade access. A list of members is provided below (please let us know if the information is correct).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution/Society</b>
Adrian Müller	CCRS, University of Zurich
Agenor Mundim	Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development
Amin Asadollahi	Natural Resources Canada
Antti Arasto	VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland
Arrigo della Gherardesca	Green Energy ITALIA srl + Italian African Alliance
Asep Suntana	Forest Systems and Bio-energy Program, Univ. Washington
Barbara Bramble	National Wildlife Federation
Barbara Oliveira	World Trade Organisation
Benjamin Hay	Nandan Biomatrix
Bijou Lulla	
Brian M. Young	Imperium Renewables
Carlo Pereira	Petrobio Ind. e Comercio de Eq. para Biodiesel
Carmen Virasoro	Sustentable SRL
Christian Schaible	European Biodiesel Board
Claire Bussy Pestalozzi	International Labour Organisation
Daniel Gilman	National Wildlife Federation
Dr. Ana Maria Bravo-Angel	Genencor
Emilie Pons	Institut d'études politiques de Paris
Emilio Font-de-Mora	APPA Biofuels
Enrique Manzanilla	
Eric Shayer	Infinity Bioenergy
Flo DiBona	
François Vuille	E4Tech Sàrl
Geoffrey Wandesforde-Smith	University of California Center Sacramento (UCCS)
Gerald Knauf	German NGO Forum on Environment and Development
Giles Clark	Biofuel Review
Guilherme Leoni	Petrobras
Heidi Quante	Sustainable Biodiesel Alliance
Hugo Hays	EUREPGAP
Ilmari Lastikka	Neste Oil
Jacob Werksman	World Resources Institute
Jean Baptiste de Vevey	Université de Lausanne
Jean-Francois Dallemand	Joint Research Centre, European Commission
Jennifer Taylor, PhD	Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University
Jeremie Mercier	Imperial College
Jeroen Douglas	Solidaridad
John Seed	
Jonas Dallinger	University Muenster
Julie Robson	Fauna and Flora International
Justus von Geibler	Wuppertal Institute
Kirk Leonard	Marion Polk Food Share, Salem, Oregon
Lars Friberg	Potsdam University
Laurens Rademakers	Biopact
Lorenzo di Lucia	Lund University
Martijn Verdonk	Grontmij
Martina Otto	UN Environment Programme
Maryline Guiramand	
Meghan Sapp	HG Consulting
Michael Glueck	GTZ
Nicolae Scarlat	Joint Research Centre, European Commission
Nicolas Macabrey	Planair, SA
Paloma Berenguer	Shell
Patrick Avato	The World Bank
Peter Rowan	Nawor Independent Development Experts
Phani Mohan Krishna	Anagha Datta Trade
Philipp Schukat	GTZ
Richard Forrest	National Wildlife Federation

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution/Society</b>
Sauman Das Gupta	
Schenk, Frederic	SGS Geneva
Scott Miller	Price BIOstock Services
Stefan Mård	Novozymes
Susanne Stulemeijer	Hill & Knowlton
Suzanne Hunt	WorldWatch Institute
Sylvia Breukers	
Tiina Tuominen	Neste Oil Corporation
Touria Dafrallah	Enda Third World
Valerie Nelson	Natural Resources Institute
Wyn Ellis	GTZ
Yen Chin Tho	ED & F Man

### **Expert Advisory Groups**

For each discussion topic, small Expert Advisory Groups will be constituted (for instance, WTO compatibility, small farmer access, third party certification, governance). These Expert Advisory Groups will work in depth with the RSB Secretariat on one of the topics to be covered and formulate suggestions to the IMP Working Group for discussion. Participation in one of the Expert Advisory Groups means a greater contribution (time and technical inputs), but for a limited period (approximately 3 months). Composition of these Expert Groups will be coordinated by the Secretariat, in order to set a small but diverse expert group.

### **Issues to be addressed**

The Implementation Working Group will be responsible for advising the other Working Groups (Environment, Greenhouse Gases and Social Impacts) and the Steering Board on the feasibility of implementing the draft principles and criteria being suggested. For instance, the GHG Working Group will be creating a tool to measure overall greenhouse gas emissions of various biofuels chains. The IMP WG will, throughout the year, give feedback on this tool regarding how burdensome it is to implement, what kinds of data might be easier for a farmer or company to provide, etc. Basically, the IMP WG should provide a ‘reality check’ on the technical recommendations coming out of the other WGs, to make sure the eventual principles and criteria can be implemented and monitored in the most cost-effective way.

To achieve this, the RSB will need to do some ‘active learning’, or pilot testing, of draft standards to see how implementable they are in real supply chains. Much pilot testing is already ongoing in biofuels supply chains, through sustainable agriculture certification schemes developed for the food market and also for biofuel-specific chains. Our group will share lessons learned from these schemes, and also recommend other pilot testing for countries, feedstocks, and producer types that have been under-studied.

Aside from this important task of ensuring that draft principles and criteria can actually be implemented and monitored, the IMP WG will also likely discuss other issues related to RSB impacts and governance, for instance:

- How to ensure small farmer and small business participation in sustainable biofuels supply chains:
  - disseminating best practice
  - access to certification
  - trade and credit market access

- Third-party certification
  - potential value of independent certification
  - traceability requirements
- WTO compatibility
- Phase Two Recommendations to the RSB Steering Board (to begin June 2008):
  - tools to be further developed in the RSB to achieve sustainability in biofuels (for instance: standards, third-party certification, membership requirements, small farmer support)
  - governance and RSB structure going forward
- Other topics as recommended by the IMP WG members

Each topic will be covered by a background paper prepared with the input of the particular Expert Advisory Group in question, and then discussed in an IMP meeting (teleconference and wiki discussion). The IMP WG will then draft recommendations to the Steering Board or other Working Groups as needed, and move on to the next topic.

### **Workplan and timeline**

The timeline below is a draft, with topics to be added, deleted, and/or re-arranged during the first IMP WG meeting, to be held in early September.

**Timeline : Working Group on Implementation**

	2007							2008					
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Constitution of Working Group	■	■	■										
Working Group meetings/conf. Calls		■		■		■		■		■		■	
Working Group scope definition	■	■	■	■									
Feedback on RSB Principles - Round 1	■	■	■	■									
Feedback on RSB Principles - Round 2					■	■	■						
Principles approved by Steering Board							■						
IMP recommendations			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
pilot testing - identify current projects and needs			■	■	■								
small farmer participation					■	■	■						
third-party certification							■	■	■				
WTO compatibility								■	■	■	■		
draft Phase Two, governance recommendations								■	■	■	■	■	
Regional Workshops						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Pilot Testing of draft principles & criteria							■	■	■	■	■	■	
Draft standards (criteria & indicators) compiled by WGs to present to Steering Board										■	■	■	
Draft standards approved by Steering Board												■	
Implement Phase Two													■