

IEA Bioenergy Task 40 - UPDATE JANUARY 2008

In 2007, IEA Bioenergy Task 40 co-organized four workshops: i) in Rotterdam jointly with Eubionet; ii) in Berlin; iii) in Toronto, jointly with the Canadian Bioenergy Association (CANBIO) and Bioenergy Focus Ontario; and iv) in Dubrovnik, in conjunction with Tasks 29 and 38. Topics covered in these workshops included set-up of biomass fuel supply chains for export, the sustainable production and trade of biomass together with the implications of the sustainability frameworks in development for international bioenergy trade, and barriers and opportunities for international biotrade.

Recent publications (see also www.bioenergytrade.org) of Task 40 include:

- A comprehensive global wood pellets & sawdust resource assessment, which describes wood pellets markets and industry in Europe, North America, Latin America and Asia. The report also describes current global solid forest industry by-products production, including an evaluation of the global raw-material potential for wood pellets from sawdust.
- A Forest Biomass Supply Chains study of the Canadian potential and long-term costs to develop forest residue. Cost experience in other countries, are also reviewed to assess, for planning purposes, what could be the anticipated long term costs to acquire forest residue from Canada. The study provides an estimate of the amount of forest biomass that might be available for domestic purposes and exports. Prices and potentials for various supply chains are analyzed for the current and the near future. Results indicate that depending on the supply chain, prices between \$37-40/odt seem feasible, as the effects of learning and process and equipment improvements are felt. Based on the local demand and logistic limitations of the various parts of Canada, the study estimates that about 11 million odt biomass may be available for export.
- A short analytical study, based on a literature review, to identify successful and unsuccessful European bioenergy policies, to derive lessons for policy makers.
- An evaluation of existing international economic models of the forest sector, the agricultural sector and/or the energy sector to assess their suitability to analyse international trade of biomass and bioenergy products. The overview is mainly focused on public models used by academia, based on publicly available data sources, and typically having a time horizon of several decades.
- Early 2008, the IEA bioenergy Task 40 member countries will publish updated country reports, containing state-of-the art overviews of domestic biomass resources, production potentials, policies, and especially international bioenergy trade.
- Early 2008, a special issue of Biomass & Bioenergy will be published, in which the key Task 40 results of the period 2004-2006 will be presented.

Three events are scheduled for 2008:

- On 25 February 2008, a workshop on international bioenergy statistics at IEA headquarters in Paris, France. Key experts will be invited to identify bottlenecks and to set-up strategies to develop meaningful statistics for international bioenergy trade.
- On 29 May 2008, a workshop during the World Bioenergy 2008 conference and exhibition in Jönköping, Sweden on the theme "The Effects on Trade from expected Incentives based on more ambitious political Targets and Visions". Presentations will include: "The Swedish Free Trade Policy", and specific trade issues for ethanol and pellets. Producer push incentives will be compared with demand pull support measures. Also technology drivers will be addressed. Also a joint session with Task 30 is planned.
- In the week of 14-20 September 2008, a joint workshop with Task 31 and Task 38, in the United Kingdom on forestry supply chains. Program details will be determined over the beginning of 2008.

More and up-to-date information on the activities of IEA Bioenergy Task 40 is available at www.bioenergytrade.org; for general work of the IEA Bioenergy Implementing Agreement, visit www.ieabioenergy.com

Task Leaders

The Task is jointly led and coordinated by André Faaij (Copernicus Institute, Utrecht University) and Peter-Paul Schouwenberg (Essent). Martin Junginger (Copernicus, UU) is assisting and logistically supporting the Task. Kees Kwant (SenterNovem) is Operating Agent for the Task.

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