

## GLOBAL ACTIONS FORUM

### Summary of the closing session of the IEA Bioenergy Day at ABLC Global - 7 November 2018

The Global Actions Forum consisted of a panel, moderated by *Paul Bennett* of Scion (New Zealand) with the following participants:

- *Jim Spaeth*, US Department of Energy, Chairman IEA Bioenergy
- *Paolo Frankl*, Head of Renewable Energy Division, International Energy Agency (IEA)
- *Michela Morese*, Executive Secretary of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)
- *Gerard Ostheimer*, Global Lead Bioenergy Accelerator SEforALL / Co-Founder & Senior Advisor to below50
- *Jeffrey Skeer*, Senior Programme Officer, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)



Central question for the panel: ***What actions are needed from the IEA Bioenergy TCP to move bioenergy forward?***

People were impressed by the top quality of the presented work, which is important, factual and with a scientific basis, and congratulated IEA Bioenergy for its achievements. One of the major recommendations is to try to **increase the impact of this work**, particularly in the policy area. More efforts would be needed to draw attention to the work, and **translate the scientific information / conclusions to messages that get attention of policies and stakeholders at large** (not only our own community but also those not friendly to bioenergy). The updated communication strategy of IEA Bioenergy would a good and necessary step towards that.

Biomass has inherent advantages and can be applied in different applications (different energy vectors, as well as products). We need to focus on local added value, which depends on the context. The work on sustainability is extremely important, focusing on how challenges in the area of sustainability can be addressed. A holistic systems approach needs to be applied, and **integration with the rest of the energy system** (in the steps towards decarbonisation) is crucial. The initiation of the new IEA Bioenergy Task on *Flexible bioenergy and integration into the energy system* is therefore welcomed.

It was suggested to **partner with other organisations for communication**. IEA Bioenergy should remain neutral and fact-based, with high credibility and technical strength, and avoid being perceived as advocates or having a conflict of interest. IEA Bioenergy also needs to be thoughtful and strategic in its communications efforts – not every possible topic needs equal exposure and attention.

Our messages can feed into communicator organisations, teaming up with industry, which can be a powerful way to engage policy makers. The different international organisations (IEA Bioenergy, Biofuture Platform, IRENA, IEA, GBEP, SEforALL) have complementary roles, each with their own strengths, with some organisations building on scientific work and analysis, others linking more closely to policy making or market actors, and others supporting developments in developing countries. It is important that the **different international organisations move forward together and build on each other to increase impact**.

Some specific points/suggestions:

- Increase focus to global supply chains from feedstock to fuel / end product, as alternative for fossil supply chains;
- Explore the interesting synergy with green hydrogen, with biomass a potential source for green carbon, combining green hydrogen and green carbon into fuels, as well as biochemicals;
- Offer specific recommendations for market actors/private sector that want to decarbonize their business (local solutions, in national context);
- Continue to focus on biofuels in aviation as a key market;
- Perform ongoing work on the role of bioenergy crops in farming landscapes (including integrated food-energy systems in developing countries), and how actively managed forests increase carbon uptake;
- Collaborate with developing countries (China, India, ...) which are now taking major steps to decarbonize their systems;
- Recognize that transition requires time, and discussions are often too polarized (only looking at long term solutions, not how we get there);
- Consider using existing assets of fossil industry to open new perspectives. Do not compete head to head with oil and other fossil fuels. There is unprecedented momentum for hybrid solutions.

**Specific areas for IEA Bioenergy action with other international organizations include the following:**



- Collaborate on policy framework for energy systems in transitions including hybrid renewable and fossil fuel combinations.
- Work to attract major new country members including China, India and Mexico.
- Partner to develop greater industry involvement.
- Collaborate on joint communications and mutual amplification of accomplishments.
- Consider the IEA website revamp as a possible model to follow.
- Review the new “digital” format offered on the IEA website.



- Collaborate to minimize overlap of efforts and maximize efficient use of respective resources.
- Consider joint communication actions and products, particularly towards policy makers, development agencies, and financial organizations.
- Consider co-development of studies/analyses for future activities, particularly in the domains of evidence-based policy-advice, and of sustainability governance (also with GBEP).



- Work with Below50 to develop industry relationships and partners and seek their input on how to improve the benefit of IEA Bioenergy to assist industry.
- Partner with Below50 to assist countries that are just beginning to look for ways to more efficiently use biomass for modern bioenergy/bioproducts.
- Collaborate to deliver IEA Bioenergy content to non-member countries and Below50 content to the IEA Bioenergy community.
- Collaborate with IEA Bioenergy to communicate to national and sub-national governments the role that low carbon fuels can play in de-carbonizing transport and meeting NDCs under the Paris Agreement.



- Work together on sustainability in general and jointly on the new activity group AG8 on Advanced Liquid Biofuels (AG8) and ongoing work in Biogas (AG7).
- Collaborate to develop local and regional solutions including for developing countries.
- Collaborate on joint events.



- Consider joint studies of bioenergy resource potential, technology pathways and scale up strategies, for example on renewable biojet fuel for aviation.
- Collaborate on outreach to development agencies, governments and civil society.
- Clearly communicate key findings from our work to amplify its impact.



IEA Bioenergy, also known as the Technology Collaboration Programme (TCP) for a Programme of Research, Development and Demonstration on Bioenergy, functions within a Framework created by the International Energy Agency (IEA). Views, findings and publications of IEA Bioenergy do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the IEA Secretariat or of its individual Member countries.

<http://www.ieabioenergy.com/>