

# Biofuels in Emerging Markets: Potential for sustainable production and consumption



## Environmental and economic assessment of biofuels production in countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia

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## IEA Task 39



### Biofuels in Emerging Markets

Potential for sustainable production and consumption

IEA Bioenergy: Task 39



February 2023



Technology Collaboration Programme  
by IEA



### Biofuels in Emerging Markets

Potential for sustainable production and consumption

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Infographics by Fabiana Paulino Martins

IEA Bioenergy: Task 39



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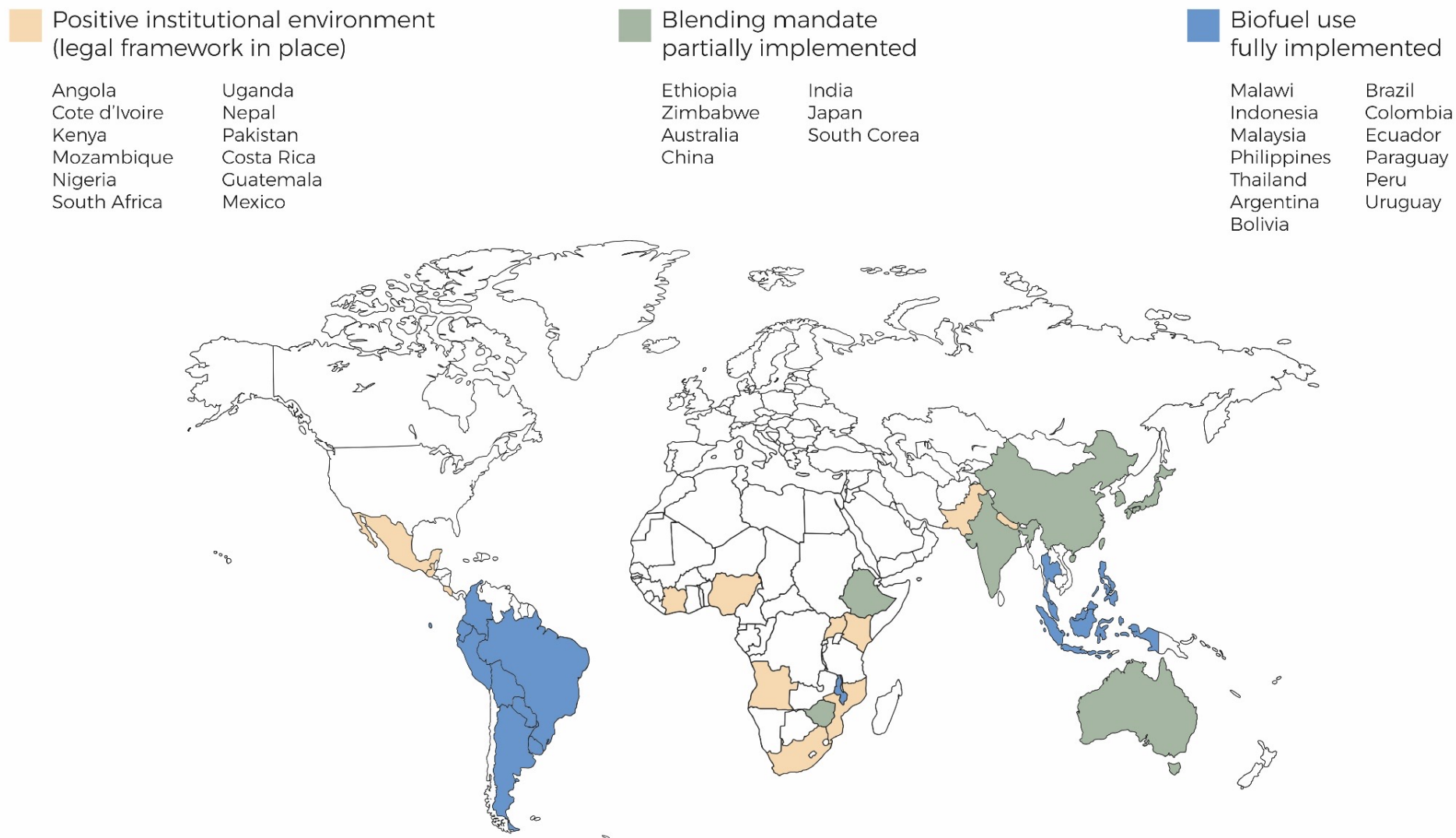
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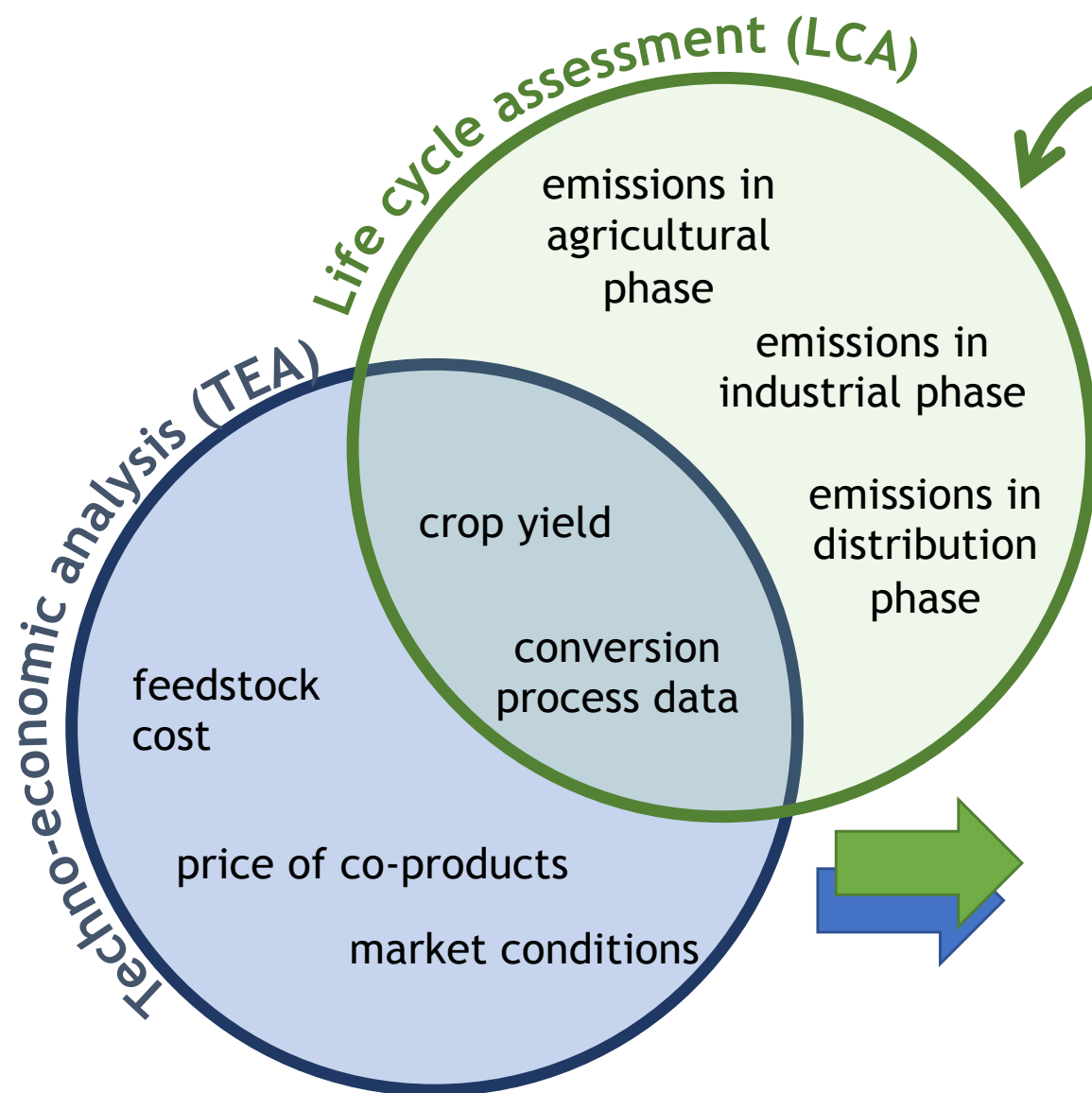
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# BIOFUELS BLENDING MANDATES IN EMERGING ECONOMIES



# Developing countries with large populations, high energy demand, biofuels policies



- Cradle-to-grave, attributional LCA
- Inventory: based on literature data and ecoinvent 3.8
- Emissions allocated among products based on energy content
- Distribution: same as current fueling infrastructure

**MARKET ANALYSIS:**  
Determine economic and environmental feasibility of replacing gasoline and diesel

Key expected results:

- GHG savings
- Required land to produce biofuels
- Fuel cost (blending mandate)

# CASES EVALUATED

- Fully deployed, high TRL
- Positive energy balance
- Competitive with fossil fuel prices
- Significant reduction of GHG emissions (63 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq/yr)
- Potential to double production with ~5% of pastureland conversion into energy cropland
- **Other countries: next round of studies**

	Ethanol		Biodiesel		
	Corn	Sugarcane	Soybean	Palm	Rapeseed
Argentina	✓	✓	✓		
Brazil		✓	✓		
Colombia		✓		✓	
Guatemala		✓			
China	✓	✓	✓		✓
Ethiopia		✓	✓		
India		✓		✓	
Indonesia	✓			✓	
Malaysia	✓			✓	
South Africa		✓			✓
Thailand		✓		✓	



# GHG EMISSIONS – Ethanol compared do gasoline

## PATHWAYS FOR ETHANOL PRODUCTION

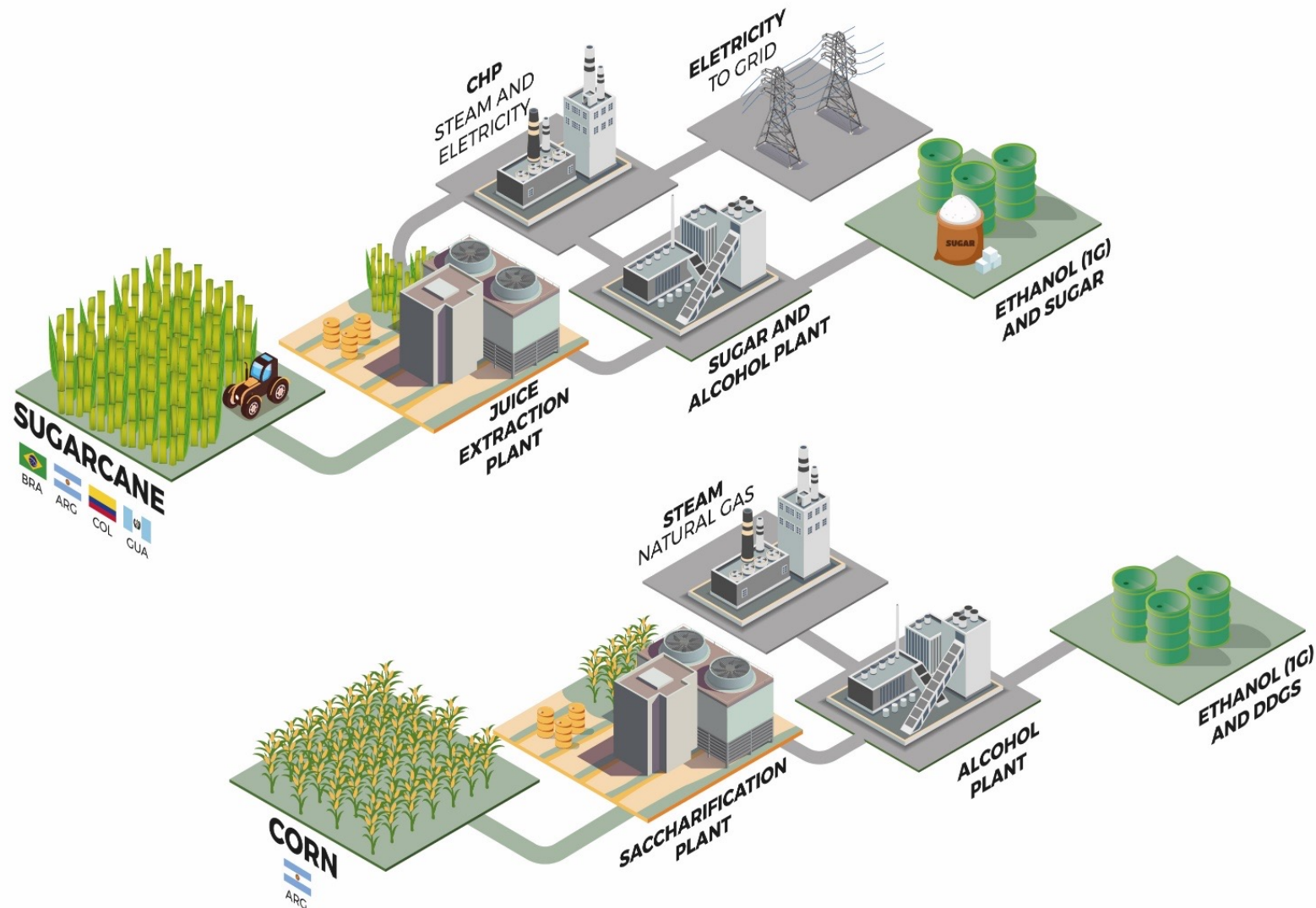
ARG ↓ 70%

BRA ↓ 67%

COL ↓ 74%

GUA ↓ 66%

ARG ↓ 37%



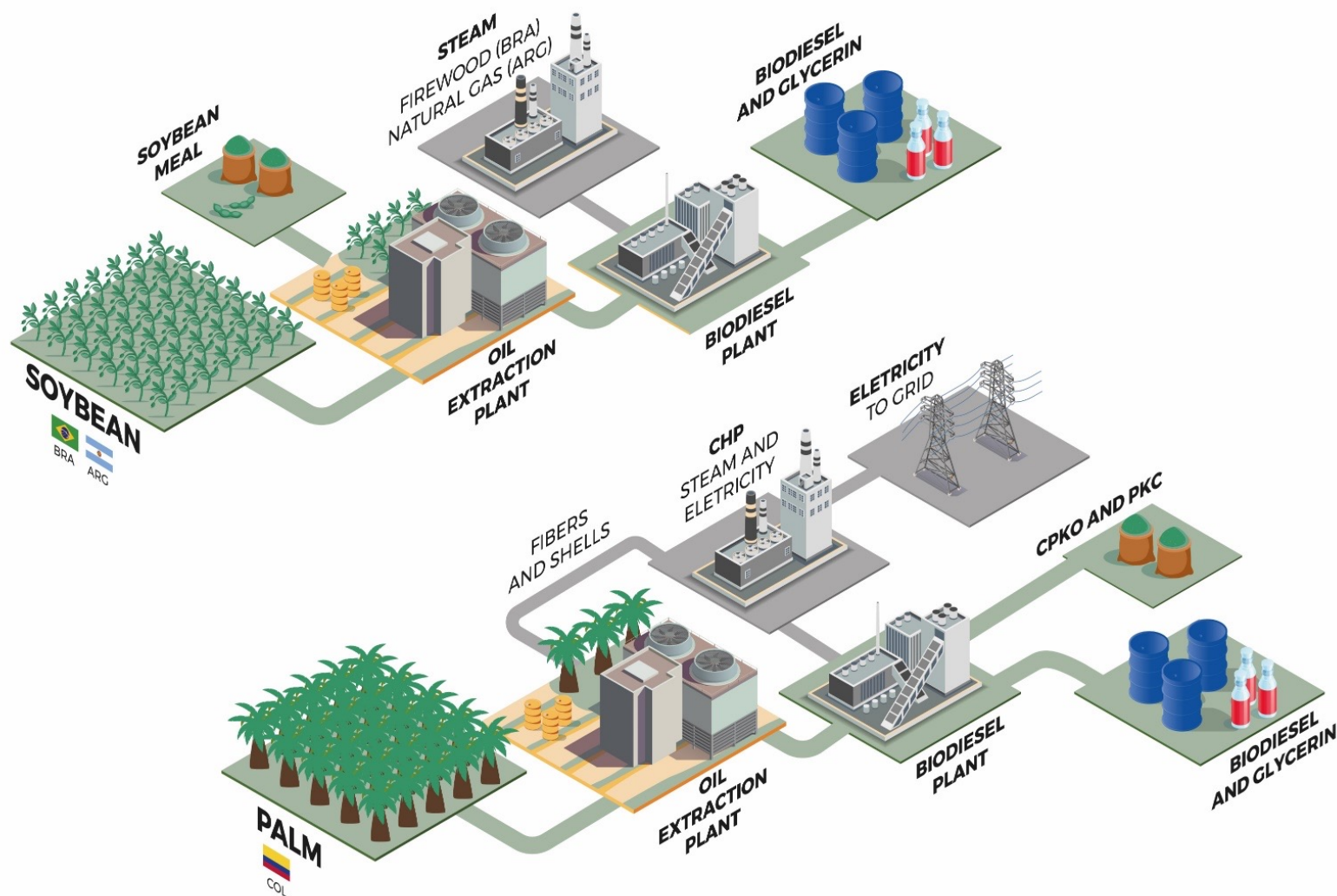
# GHG EMISSIONS – Biodiesel compared do diesel

ARG ↓ 79%

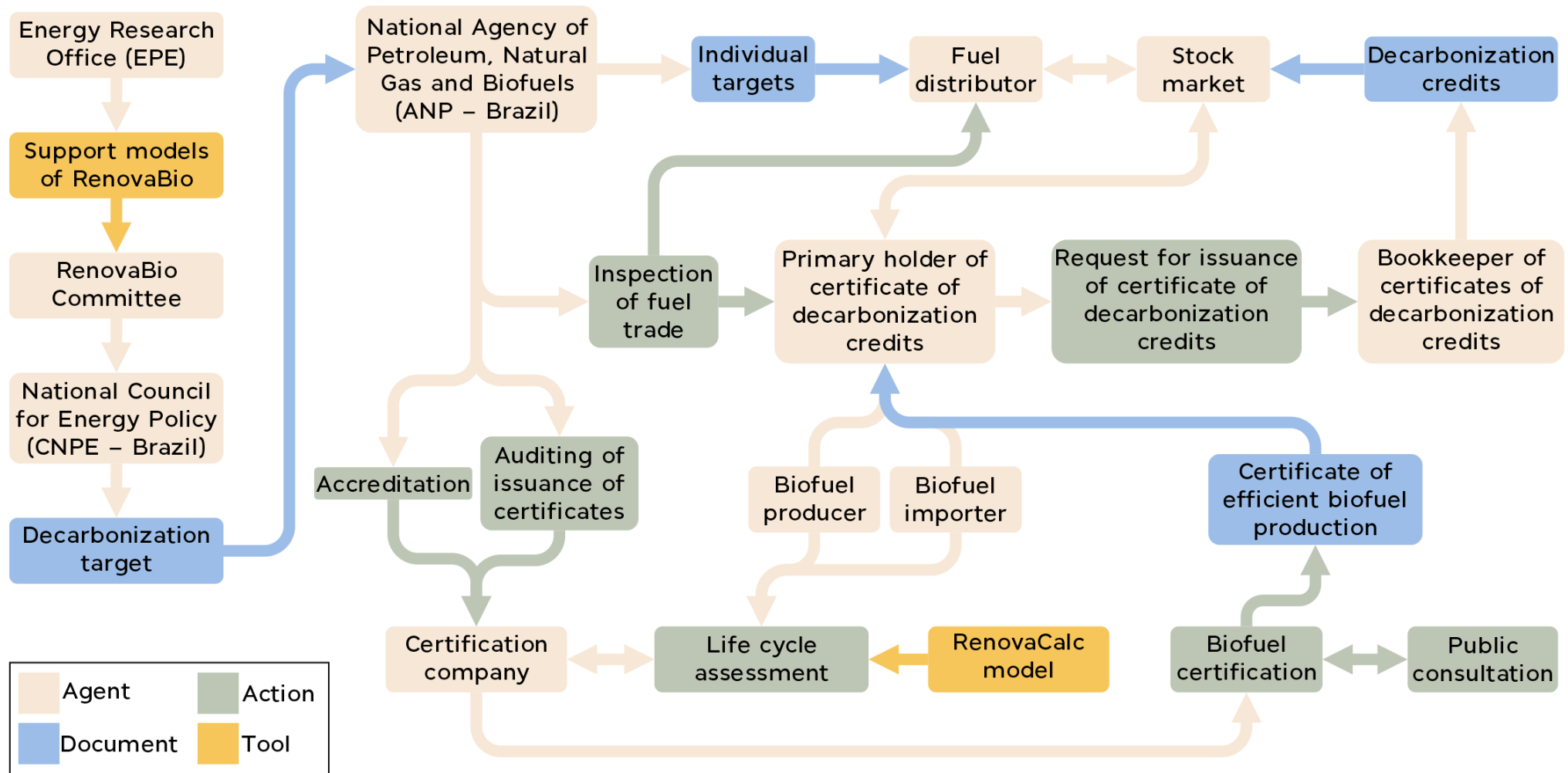
BRA ↓ 68%

COL ↓ 84%

## PATHWAYS FOR BIODIESEL PRODUCTION



# RENOVABIO Policy Framework





# ADOPTING A LOW CARBON INTENSITY POLICY

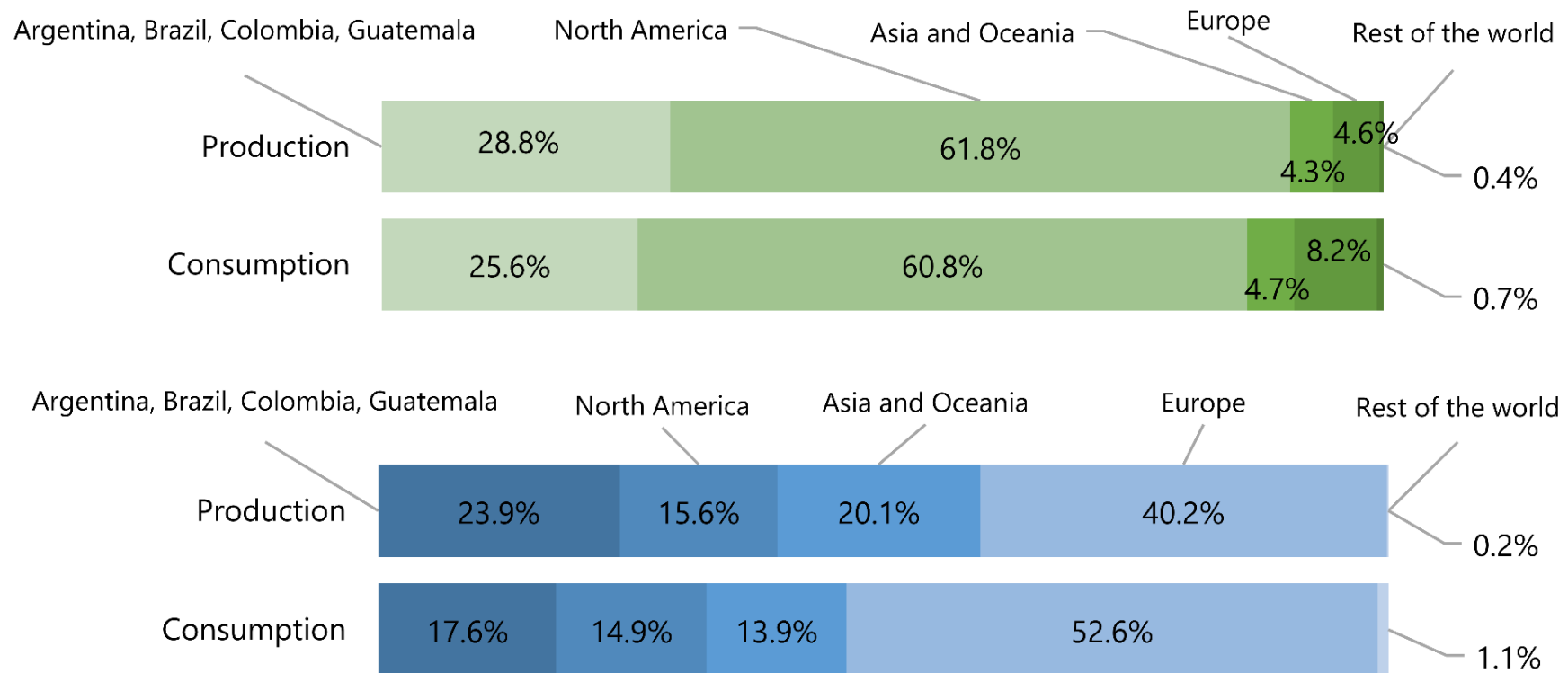
**1 ton CO<sub>2</sub> at US\$ 10 = US\$ 630 million**

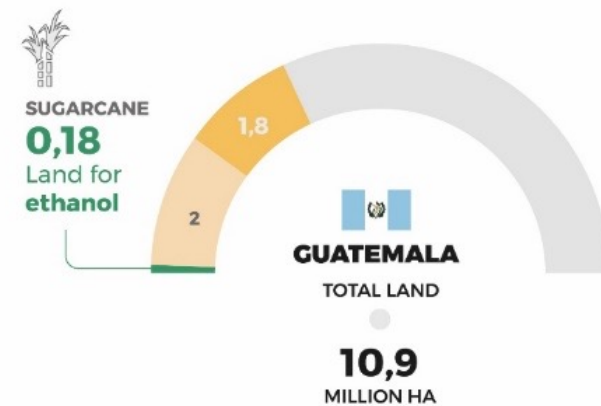
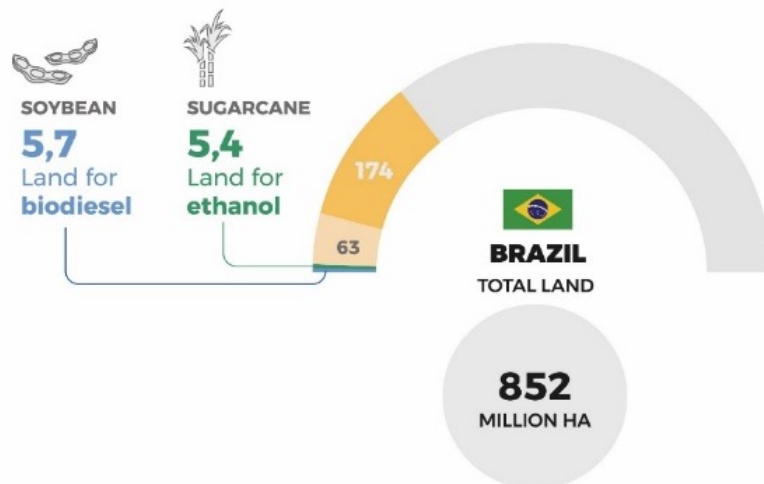
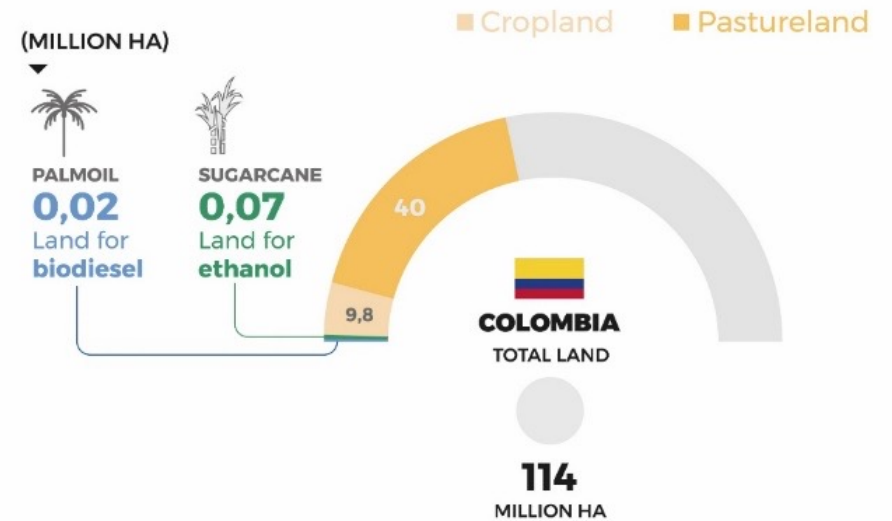
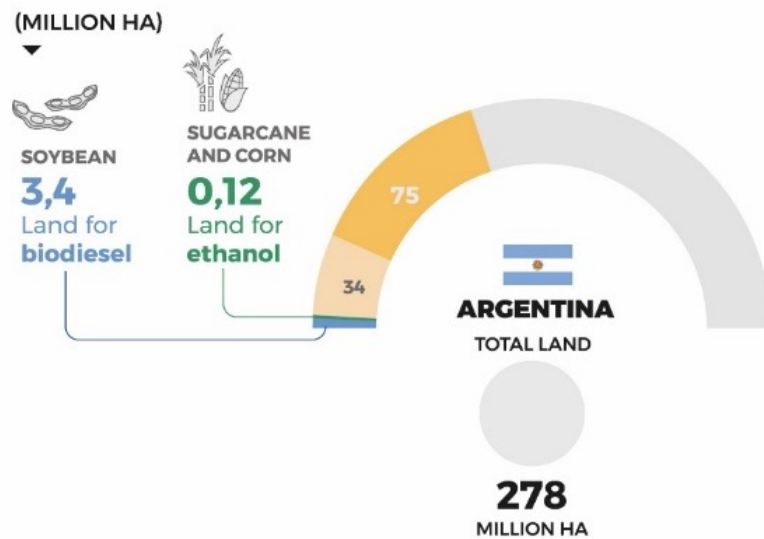
Scenarios	Annual Production (Billion L)	GHG emissions ethanol (Gg CO <sub>2</sub> eq)	GHG emissions Gasoline <sup>2</sup> (Gg CO <sub>2</sub> eq)	Emissions avoided by replacing gasoline by ethanol (CBIO) <sup>3</sup>		Value of CBIOs issued (Million US\$) <sup>4</sup>
				(%)	Million tons CO <sub>2</sub> eq	
Argentina <sup>1</sup>	1.07	910	1989	54	1.0	10.8
Brazil	35.3	20961	65427	67	44.2	442.8
Colombia	0.45	210	834	74	0.6	6.2
Guatemala	0.27	0	499	0	0	0

Scenarios	Annual Production (Billion L)	GHG emissions Biodiesel (Gg CO <sub>2</sub> eq)	GHG emissions Diesel <sup>1</sup> (Gg CO <sub>2</sub> eq)	Emissions avoided by replacing diesel by biodiesel <sup>2</sup>		Value of CBIOs issued (Million US\$) <sup>3</sup>
				(%)	Million tons CO <sub>2</sub> eq	
Argentina	2.4	1284	6013	79	4.7	47.3
Brazil	5.9	5483	16508	68	11	110.2
Colombia	0.6	283	1706	84	1.4	14.2

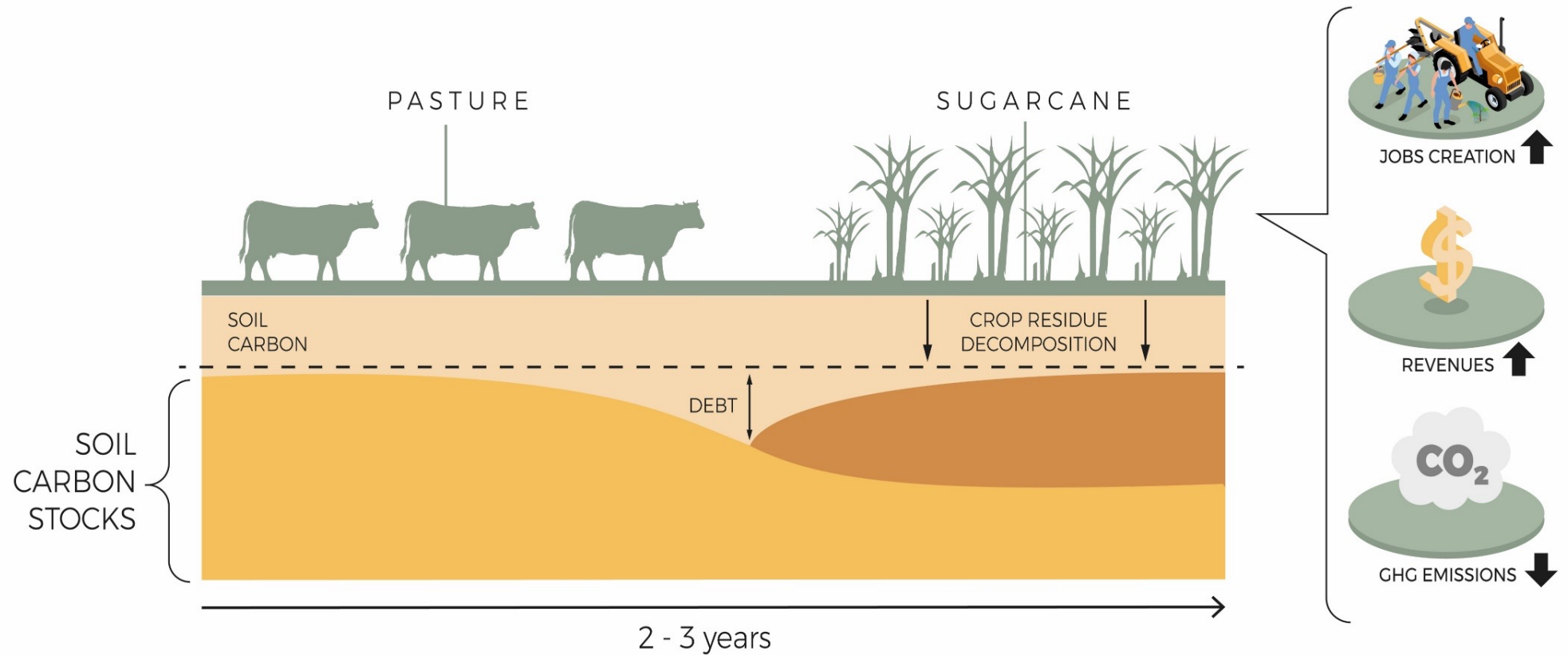
# What is the potential for expansion and is it sustainable?

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Guatemala provide 29% of the global ethanol and 24% of biodiesel





# SOIL CARBON STOCKS



*To duplicate the liquid biofuels Production...*

Argentina → 4.5% of Pastureland

Brazil → 6.4% of Pastureland

Colombia → 0.2% of Pastureland

Guatemala → **10%** of Pastureland (only ethanol)

Cherubin et al., 2022

**Table 2.** Current sugarcane production and in 1% of the pasture land in selected countries of Latin America and Southern Africa.

Country	1% of pasture area (1000 ha) <sup>a</sup>	Sugarcane potential production (1000 t) <sup>b</sup>	GHG emission annually mitigated (Mt CO <sub>2</sub> /year) <sup>c</sup>
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>			
Argentina	1085	86,800	9.90
Bolivia	330	26,400	3.01
Colombia	392	31,360	3.58
Costa Rica	13	1040	0.12
Cuba	28	2240	0.26
Dominican Republic	12	960	0.11
Ecuador	50	4000	0.46
El Salvador	6	480	0.05
Guatemala	20	1600	0.18
Honduras	18	1440	0.16
Mexico	2	160	0.02
Nicaragua	809	64,720	7.38
Panama	33	2640	0.30
Paraguay	15	1200	0.14
Peru	170	13,600	1.55
Venezuela	188	15,040	1.71
Subtotal	3171	253,680	28.92
<b>Southern Africa</b>			
Angola	571	45,696	5.21
Malawi	20	1568	0.18
Mauritius	<1	8	0.00
Mozambique	465	37,232	4.24
South Africa	888	71,016	8.10
Swaziland	11	872	0.10
Tanzania	0,3	24	0.00
Zambia	211	16,920	1.93
Zimbabwe	128	10,240	1.17
Subtotal	2295	183,576	20.93
Total	5466	437,256	49.85

Source: <sup>a</sup>[46] for year 2015.

<sup>b</sup>Assuming 80 kton/ha.

<sup>c</sup>Assuming 0.114 t CO<sub>2</sub>eq/t cane.

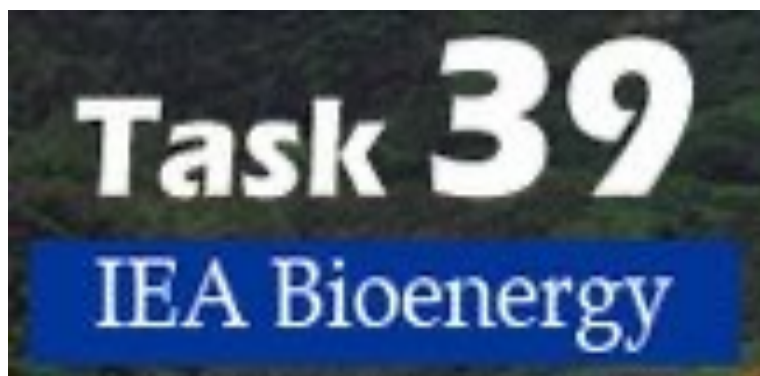
Trindade et al., 2019



Thank you for your  
attention!

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