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### **Adapting the Brazilian bioenergy model to different contexts through public consultation and communication**

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Sustainable bioenergy development has been promoted aiming energy security, environmental benefits, agroindustry activation and socioeconomic benefits, particularly considering the production potential identified in wet tropical countries. With this perspective, mainly in some decision-making circles there is a belief that the so-called Brazilian bioenergy model, which essentially implies in modern and large-scale sugarcane mills producing biofuel and bioelectricity, can be almost directly replicated in countries that have similar soil and climate conditions to the Brazilian *cerrado* biome, such as the African savannah. However, as has been more and more recognized, similar edaphoclimatic conditions are insufficient factors to enable the full replication of the Brazilian model, due to the different social, institutional, economic and cultural contexts of the (mostly developing) countries where such replication is intended. But this does not mean that the Brazilian experience with bioenergy does not have valuable lessons to be applied in countries interested in developing their bioenergy sector. In order to adapt (rather than replicate) the most relevant aspects of the Brazilian model to interested countries, it is imperative first to have a solid understanding of their local backgrounds. This requires a process of public consultation and communication, which implicates effective public participation and stakeholder involvement in the conception, implementation and evaluation of bioenergy projects. In this paper, we briefly revise the situation of national biofuels programs, characterize the Brazilian bioenergy model and propose practical measures that can be used as instruments for public consultation and communication, in order to verify the suitability and requirements to adapt this model to the local contexts, needs and demands of countries that are interested in learning from Brazil's experience with bioenergy.

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