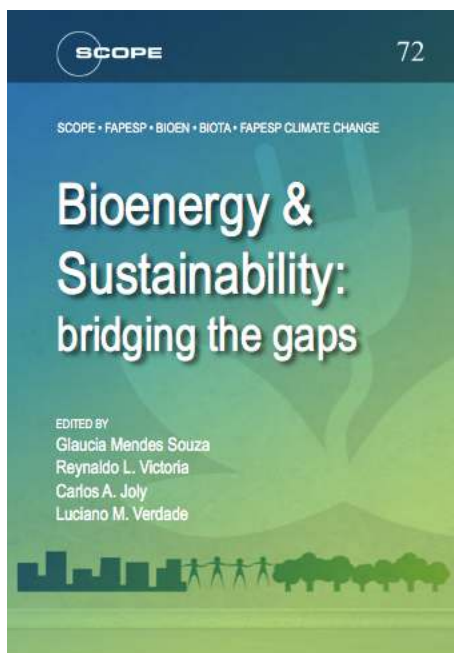


Report on Bioenergy and Sustainability to be launched at World Bank



More than 100 experts from around the world contributed to present main findings and recommendations on current production and use of bioenergy, as well as growth potential, considering such aspects as land use, feedstocks, technologies, impacts and policies

São Paulo, September 22, 2015. Over the past two years, 137 experts from 24 countries and 82 institutions have collaborated to analyze a range of issues related to the sustainability of bioenergy production and use. The resulting report *Bioenergy & Sustainability: Bridging the Gaps*, will be launched at a symposium at the World Bank, on September 28, 2015, in Washington DC, USA.

In the symposium, authors will highlight the key findings and discuss the opportunities for sustainable energy in developing regions, as well as the role of bioenergy in 2030 and 2050 time horizons. The symposium will bring together invited representatives from a range of research institutions, donors, government and non-government agencies and key staff from the World Bank. An expected outcome is the roadmap for scaling up sustainable bioenergy approaches globally.

The report was coordinated by scientists linked to FAPESP's research programs on Bioenergy (BIOEN), Global Climate Change (RPGCC), and Biodiversity (BIOTA), and was supported by FAPESP (São Paulo Research Foundation) and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), an international nongovernmental organization.

The report that references over 2,000 studies provides a wide-ranging analysis of the current bioenergy landscape, technology, production financing systems and markets, and the potential for sustainable growth of bioenergy use, in parallel with a critical review of its impacts.

The authors consider how bioenergy expansion affects existing energy systems, food production, environmental and climate security, and sustainable development in both developed and developing regions. They then present their science-based recommendations for policy formulation and for the deployment of a range of bioenergy use options such as liquid biofuels, bioelectricity, biogas and bio-based chemicals, amongst others, in different regions of the world.

The report has five sections. The introduction is followed by an executive summary with technical data and bioenergy numbers offering a comprehensive survey of current biomass production and land use, conversion technologies, future demands and social and environmental benefits.

The third section presents the four crosscutting themes: energy security, food security, environmental and climate security, sustainable development and innovation, and filling in the knowledge gaps for sustainable expansion of bioenergy. The fourth section consists of commissioned background chapters, the state of the art discussed by experts from a spectrum of disciplines to form the basis for the conclusions and recommendations and crosscutting themes presented in the previous section. Topics cover land use, sources of biomass for bioenergy, integration with agriculture and forestry, water and soil, greenhouse gas emissions, and the impact of biofuels on biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as social and economic issues. Section V lists countries and regions cited in the report and keywords of the document.

Highlights

The *Bioenergy & Sustainability* report calls attention to the value of bioenergy as an alternative power source and an option to reduce the impact of fossil fuel combustion. It also highlights the opportunities for enhancement of energy security and mitigation of climate change through advanced biomass conversion technologies that would also help to offset the negative environmental impact of deforestation and land degradation due to agriculture and cattle grazing.

Another conclusion is that bioenergy production systems based on sustainable practices can help to offset greenhouse gas emissions resulting from land use changes or loss of biodiversity. These technologies and procedures include combinations of different feedstocks, use of co-products, integration of bioenergy with agriculture, pasture intensification, agro-ecological zoning, landscape-level planning, improving yields, and other land management practices adapted to local conditions.

The authors also affirm that sufficient land is available worldwide for expansion of biomass cultivation, that most of this land is in Latin America and Africa, and that the use of these areas for bioenergy production would not represent a threat to food security and biodiversity under certain conditions. Moreover, they present evidence that soil improvement technology, production chain integration and use of bioenergy byproducts in poor rural areas could boost economic performance, enhance food quality, reduce pollution and create jobs.

To download the complete report (open access) see:

<http://bioenfapesp.org/scopebioenergy/index.php/chapters>

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About SCOPE – www.scopenvironment.org

The Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment is an international nongovernmental organization founded in 1969. It collaborates with inter-governmental agencies such as UNESCO and UNEP and with other partners in the development of its scientific program and outreach activities.

About FAPESP BIOEN, RGCC and BIOTA – www.fapesp.br/en

BIOEN, the FAPESP Bioenergy Research Program, aims at articulating public and private R&D, using academic and industrial laboratories to advance and apply knowledge in fields related to bioenergy in Brazil. The FAPESP Research Program on Global Climate Change (RPGCC) aims at advancing knowledge on Global Climate Change and guide decisions and policy in the field. The BIOTA-FAPESP Program (FAPESP Research Program on Biodiversity Characterization, Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use), aims not only at discovering and evaluating the possibilities of sustainable exploitation of plants or animals with economic potential and assisting in the formulation of conservation policies on remnants of native vegetation.

WB event address

Symposium on Bioenergy and Sustainability: Bridging the Gaps

Organized by FAPESP and SCOPE

September 28, 2015, 1pm to 5pm

701-18th Street- N.W, Room J B1-075, Washington DC

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