Side Event

Biofuel Industry: Opportunity for self-reliance and security in energy enabling progress towards the SDGs and NDC commitments

Timing

Date: 6 July 2021  
Time: 15:00 – 16:00 (CET)  
Room: Virtual  
Duration: 60 minutes  
Cluster: Policy; Knowledge Management

Narrative

According to the Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report 2021, 759 million people lack access to electricity and 2.6 billion people are unable to cook cleanly – numbers that are expected to get worse because of COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic has stalled progress being made by developing countries, and a lack of energy access will compromise their ability to recover. In order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, energy is a critical input towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The report highlights that electricity access rate has increased to 90 percent globally in 2019 but 759 million lack access to electricity. An estimated half of this population live in fragile and conflict-affected settings and 84 percent in rural areas. To reach the universal access goal, about 940 million people will have to be connected by 2030. Globally, 20 countries accounted for 81 percent of the population without access to clean cooking. These countries are also known as High Impact Countries and evenly distributed between Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. According to IEA’s Stated Policies Scenario, about 2.4 billion people will be left with no access in 2030 if clean cooking fails to secure a foothold in the global political agenda.

There is an urgent need to support these countries in accelerating access to energy to meet the 2030 Agenda. Bioenergy has the opportunity in accelerating access to energy in countries with limited access with the potential of creating a sustainable bio economy/ecosystem in these countries. Only a small fraction of its potential has been exploited so far. That potential can easily be achieved without tapping into the food crops and experiencing competition with food production. Indeed, there are still huge quantities of bio-residues globally that are not used and that can be converted into bioenergy. To facilitate the successful development of local bioenergy industries, HICs need to establish a market enabling environment to overcome barriers and eliminate risks by adopting and improving coherent policy
frameworks and regulations, standardize data for planning and monitoring different parts of the value chain as well as providing financing solutions to lastly ease the market entry for small medium enterprises.

Agriculture is the mainstay of Developing Countries (DCs) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as the sector contributes considerably to their GDP. Business opportunities are to be found along the entire value chain of agro-industries. Agro-processing is an important instrument to add value to agricultural products. Since agro-industries generate vast amounts of biodegradable wastes and residues in one place, the potential to apply circular economy principles and generate co-products and by products, including energy, is enormous. This can also reduce post-harvest losses, thereby increasing the productivity and profitability of industries and related value chain.

There is immense potential for DCs and LDCs as well as Small Island Developing States to produce biofuels from local agro-resources and reduce the import of fossil fuels which can help them become self-reliant in energy and energy secure, furthermore saving an enormous amount of foreign exchange which can be diverted to other economic activities. In summary, the bioenergy industries and economies are promoting an increasing focus on the nexus of climate adaptation, job creation, social well-being as well as the value chain potential representing a multi-sector social, economic and environmental impact.

In light of these circumstances and within the framework of the G20 declarations and recommendations for Forward-looking Options for Enabling Pathways for Universal Access to Energy, considering UNIDO’s lead in the implementation of SDG 9 on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, and focusing on its Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) mandate, UNIDO sees the opportunity to develop the biofuel industry in these countries to accelerate energy access rate and NDC commitments.

The Panel:

The panel will discuss strategies to identify opportunities to achieve access to modern energy services for all by 2030 with a focus on bioenergy.

**Key Questions**

This side event will mainly focus on discussing the following key questions and discussion points:

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of the biofuel industry in developing countries?
- What are the key challenges of the biofuels industry?
- What lessons and successful strategies can we learn from the experiences of DCs in promoting an indigenous biofuel industry?
## AGENDA

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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| 15:00 – 15:05 | Opening, scene-setting, and bioenergy publication launch              | Chair  
**Prof. Eli Jidere Bala**, Director General (DG), Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN)            |
|               | Bioenergy publication presentation                                     | Dr. **Ludovic Lacrosse**, Managing Director, LL Green Consulting                                   |
|               | Remarks                                                               | Mr. **Tareq Emtariah**, Director, Department of Energy, UNIDO                                      |
| 15:05 – 15:10 | Topic introduction/introduction of the panellists                      | Chair, DG, ECN                                                                                     |
| 15:10 – 15:15 | Bioenergy strategy for Tanzania (BEST)                                | Mr. **Emilian Nyanda**, Senior Officer, Renewable Energy Unit, Ministry of Energy, Tanzania       |
| 15:15 – 15:20 | State of the art for biofuels global perspective                       | Ms. **Dina Bacovsky**, Unit Head Biofuels, Bioenergy and Sustainable Technologies                 |
| 15:20 – 15:25 | Biofuels trends and opportunity for developing countries              | Mr. **Harry Stokes**, Executive Director, Project Gaia Inc.                                        |
| 15:25 – 15:30 | Biofuel blending in Thailand                                           | Dr. **Athikom Bangviwat**, Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment (JGSEE)               |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | Open discussion will to explore key issues (3 minutes each speaker)   | Moderated by the Chair                                                                             |
| 15:45 – 16:00 | Questions from the floor and final summary/wrap-up                    |                                                                                                   |
Organisation & Contact Points

ENE/ETI, UNIDO

To discuss the session layout and theme, please kindly contact the following persons:

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For any further questions related to the VEF 2021 side-events, please contact Ms. Janina Herzog-Hawelka & Grazia Aghaizu

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