IEA Bioenergy

Task 40: Sustainable International Bioenergy trade

IEA Bioenergy Task 40 Newsletter - Issue 1 -2009

Editorial

Task 40 is now in its 6th year of existence, and is aiming to prolong its activities for continuation for at least another triennium (2010-2012). So far, 2009 is one of busiest years of the task, which is probably due to the fact that we currently have 14 members, allowing for a lot of activity. We therefore decided to launch a bi-annual newsletter, which is distributed by each countries national team leader to relevant stakeholders. We hope that this newsletter provides you with useful information. In case you do not wish to receive this newsletter in the future, please notify the corresponding team leader. If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, with kind regards,

André Faaij, Peter-Paul Schouwenberg and Martin Junginger

A busy year for Task 40...

In the final year of its second triennium, Task 40 is currently working on a record number of five workshops in 2009. All presentations of past workshops (up to July/09) are available online at the Task 40 website www.bioenergytrade.org

1) Task 40 International Workshop: "Sustainability certification for biofuels and bioenergy", Brussels, 29-30 January 2009

An increasing concern arises about the sustainability of produced (and internationally traded) biomass, e.g. including impacts on biodiversity, displacement of food production, but also the effectiveness in greenhouse gas reduction. The workshop gave an opportunity to learn more about various initiatives, not only in Europe but also globally, with speakers from Brazil, Canada and the USA. The discussions focus on the actual implementation of sustainability schemes and criteria in practice, and the implications for energy and biomass producers.

2) Task 40 contributions to the 31st Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals, San Francisco, May 3-6 2009

During this workshop, Task 40 members contributed several presentations (also during a session sponsored by Task 39 and 40) including an up-to-date overview and comparison of sustainability certification schemes for biofuels, on international trade in lignocellulose biomass, and barriers and opportunities for bioenergy trade.

3) Joint workshop on barriers and opportunities for bioenergy trade and increased utilization, Hamburg, Germany, July 2nd 2009

Task 40 and EUBIONETIII organized a joint workshop during the 17th European biomass conference in Hamburg. During this workshop results were presented from several international projects focusing on European and global bioenergy trade. Special focus was on the development of solid biomass trade (mainly wood pellets, but also wood chips and agricultural residues). We invited stakeholders from the industry, policy and science arena, and highlighted current developments and opportunities of solid biomass trade, as well as the

main barriers hampering further growth. Speakers included industry participants from CHOREN (M. Deutmeyer), Dong (M. Nitschke), GEE (M. Gudera) and Foex (M. Sihvonen).

4) Task 40 contribution to the IEA Bioenergy conference "Biofuels & Bioenergy - a Changing Climate"

Task 40 will be participating in the IEA bioenergy conference 24-26 August in Vancouver, Canada. The preliminary speakers list from Task 40 includes Doug Bradley, Bo Hektor and Kees Kwant, who will provide presentations on some of the work of Task 40. For the latest information, see http://www.ieabioenergyconference.org/program.html

5) Task 40 workshop in Japan during the week of 28-29 October 2009

While the program is still in the making, Task 40 is preparing a workshop in Japan on Trade activities and opportunities for liquid and solid biofuels in the East and Southeast Asian region. The aims of this workshop are (1) to provide an overview of ongoing biomass use and trade developments in the South-East Asian region, including a review of existing policy initiatives in various countries in the region; (2) to point out the supply and demand of solid biomass streams (wood pellets, wood chips, palm kernel shells, other agricultural residues) and the major industrial players active; (3) to show current supply and demand developments for liquid biofuels in the region, how these have developed in past years and where trade flows will be heading in years to come; and (4) to point out both opportunities for further trade and (policy) barriers to be overcome. We hope to make this an event with high industry participation, both from the region and from companies with trade links to the region. More details will be published over the summer of 2009 on the Task 40 website www.bioenergytrade.org

Recent task 40 publications (published and forthcoming)

All reports are available for free at the Task 40 website www.bioenergytrade.org

- Task 40 members compiled an **overview of bioenergy trade and bioenergy success stories**, covering ethanol and biodiesel in the US, wood pellets in Canada and Austria, and pyrolysis oil in Canada, including important preconditions, drivers, barriers overcome, and possible future developments.
- Task 40 commissioned a study on a **global overview of bio-oils (vegetable and palm oil)** to: i) assess major producers and consumers of vegetables oils, ii) main emerging markets, iii) analyze main policy drivers, iv) assess future trends (palm, soybean, rapeseed oils).
- The **bioenergy maritime shipping study** describes main properties of biofuels in relation to maritime shipping, examine current shipping lanes (including routes from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Malaysia, Russia and the Baltic States) and major tradable biomass sources, capacities, costs and obstacles, together with other factors that will influence future biofuels shipping opportunities.
- A large study on **barriers and opportunities for bioenergy trade** is currently investigating the importance of tariff barriers, technical standards, sustainability criteria and other possible issues hampering or stimulating international bioenergy trade (final report to be published during summer 2009).
- In July and August 2009, all Task 40 member countries will publish **updated country reports**, containing state-of-the art overviews of domestic biomass resources, production potentials, policies, and especially international bioenergy trade.

Task leadership and overview of national team leaders

The Task is jointly led and coordinated by André Faaij (Copernicus Institute, Utrecht University) and Peter-Paul Schouwenberg (Nidera Handelscompagnie B.V.). Martin Junginger (Copernicus, UU) is assisting and logistically supporting the Task. Kees Kwant (SenterNovem) is Operating Agent for the Task.

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