

## Public consultation – Indirect land use change and biofuels

### Input submission

There has been a growing attention given to the impact of the EU's Directives to promote the use of biofuel in the transport sector in Europe. Oil palm oil and sugar cane producing countries have been expanding plantation with the intent to increase biofuel export to Europe and the EU's directive to raise biofuel in the Europe's transport has been causing land change in some of the Asian developing countries. The rapid expansion of biofuel commodity plantations have been causing a social concern as it can underline sustainability principles to ensure long term environmental, social and economic benefits of natural resource use.

At the conference entitled "Biofuels in Southeast Asia: Challenge to Social Sustainability – Chance for Green Jobs?" held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 6 – 8 October 2010 with the sponsorship of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – a German think tank, over 40 decision makers and stakeholders have met and discussed the policy issues related to biofuel production. The discussions were highly dense and rich to cover a wide range of issues. It is deemed useful, however, to recapitulate some of the key points on the model of sustainable biofuel production as follows:

#### Environmental sustainability

- I Decentralised forms of biofuel production provides modalities that meet sustainability principles unlike centralised biofuel production by conglomerates.
- I Combination of patches for biofuel production is desirable from sustainability viewpoints compared with large scale monoculture biofuel farms.
- I Multi-tiers of agroforestry is one of the suggested forms of biofuel production.
- I Community farms are a suggested form of land management systems.
- I Agro-silvo pastoralism can contribute to sustainable land management with the introduction of livestock.
- I Water harvesting, reduced agrochemical application and use of local feedstock are other factors that can contribute to sustainable land management.

#### Social equity

- I Local employment should be promoted.
- I Local ownership of resources should be fostered through private-public partnership or local cooperatives.
- I Stakeholder participation should be ensured in decision making over land use change,
- I It is important to provide assistance to support capacity development in materializing suggested measures for promoting sustainable biofuel production.
- I It is also vital to support the institutionalisation of governance for natural resource management at the local and national levels.

#### Economic benefits

- I Consideration should be given to revenue sharing through tax and trust fund that benefit local community of biofuel production.
- I Further benefit sharing should be considered to improve well-being of local communities.
- I Decentralised and local processing of biofuel should be also explored to allow local community to attain added value of biofuel production.

#### Suggestions

- I EU directives should include reference to “sustainability safeguarding” by which EU ensures to give attention to sustainability of biofuel production thereby supporting long term environmental, social and economic benefits of biofuel production in biofuel producing countries.
- I EU directives should require importers to ensure that biofuel is produced in compliance with national legislations and policies of biofuel producing countries on minimum wage requirements and other environmental and social policies.
- I EU should strive to support multi-stakeholder policy dialogue and capacity development in order to enhance sustainability of biofuel production.

The input was made based on the background paper entitled “The Challenge of Biofuels in South East Asia and Beyond” by Mark Elder, Shinano Hayashi, Daisuke Sano, Jane Romero, Anindya Bhattacharya, Naoko Matsumoto, and Masanori Kobayashi of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies and discussions at the Conference Biofuels in Southeast Asia: Challenges to Social Sustainability—Change for Green Jobs? held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 6 – 8 October 2010.

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