



***International Conference and Policy Debate on
'Biofuel Sustainability Schemes
- An African Perspective'***

***Competence Platform on Energy Crop and Agroforestry
Systems for Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems - Africa***

***16-19 June 2008
Arusha, Tanzania***

Agenda *(Draft 12 February 2008)*

Conference Venue: Arusha (to be identified)

Conference coordinator/contact point:

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Conference organisation support:

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Conference Objectives

The use of bioenergy has come to the fore most recently as a result of the concept of it being used to mitigate climate change. There are many arguments in favour of the use of biomass, e.g. security of energy supply, diversification of energy sources, low-carbon emission, an alternative market for agricultural products, and rehabilitation of degraded lands, among others. However, the current debate focuses on the possible negative social and environmental implications, especially with regards to land competition, questions about the reduction of emissions in practice and the 'fuel versus food' debate. Some of these implications are related to either the lack of policy or policies that do not encompass sustainable development.

One of the main problems in tackling climate change has been the lack of appropriate policies. Global-level policies have often ignored the human and social needs which energy fulfils, particularly in developing countries. Although there is no single policy or measure which can provide a total solution, there is need for immediate action. If African countries are willing to engage in the "bioenergy sector" in part by replacing the traditional use of biomass with more modern forms whilst ensuring that they can fulfil their own energy needs, it will be necessary to meet sustainability assurance (environmental, social and economic) and incorporate it into local policy and governance.

The objectives of the conference are:

- To assess the energy production potentials in African countries and the market possibilities for small and large scale producers
- To ensure that a strong African perspective is encouraged to emerge in the global arena of energy, climate change and bioenergy policy making
- To engage the policy and decision makers of African countries in the sustainable bioenergy
- To promote capacity building and South-South cooperation for a sustainable production of energy crops
- To assist African countries in the development of strong regional and national policies on the sustainable development of bioenergy resources for indigenous and export markets
- To highlight ways of developing food AND fuel and avoiding the food versus fuel conflict
- To review progress of COMPETE Work Package 3 on 'Sustainability Analysis of Alternative Land Use' and to help ensure that it provides the practical tools so urgently required by African policy makers, industry and investors

This Conference and Policy Dialogue is organised in the framework of the COMPETE Work Package 3 on 'Sustainability Analysis of Alternative Land Use'.

The COMPETE Project



COMPETE Objectives

The Competence Platform on Energy Crop and Agroforestry Systems for Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems – Africa (COMPETE) will establish a **platform for policy dialogue and capacity building** and identify **pathways for the sustainable provision of bioenergy**

- to improve the quality of life and create alternative means of income for the rural population in Africa
- to aid the preservation of intact ecosystems in arid and semi-arid regions in Africa
- to enhance the equitable exchange of knowledge between EU and developing countries

COMPETE Activities

COMPETE will deliver a matrix of multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral work-packages

- to evaluate current and future potential for the **sustainable provision of bioenergy** in Africa in comparison to existing land use patterns and technologies
- to facilitate **South-South technology and information exchange** capitalising the world-leading RD&D in bioenergy in the key countries Brazil, Mexico, India, China and Thailand
- to develop **innovative tools for the provision of financing** for national bioenergy programmes and local bioenergy projects, including: carbon credits, bilateral and multi-lateral funding instruments, and the role of international trade
- to develop **practical, targeted and efficient policy mechanisms** for the development of bioenergy systems that enhance local value-added, assist local communities and address gender inequalities
- to establish the **Competence Platform** to ensure effective dissemination and knowledge exchange inside and outside the network

COMPETE Partnership

The COMPETE partnership comprises 20 European and 23 non-European partners - 11 partners from 7 African countries, 3 regional African policy and financing bodies (African Development Bank; Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network of Southern Africa; UEMOA - Biomass Energy Regional Program), 9 partners from Latin America and Asia - and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

COMPETE Website: www.compete-bioafrica.net

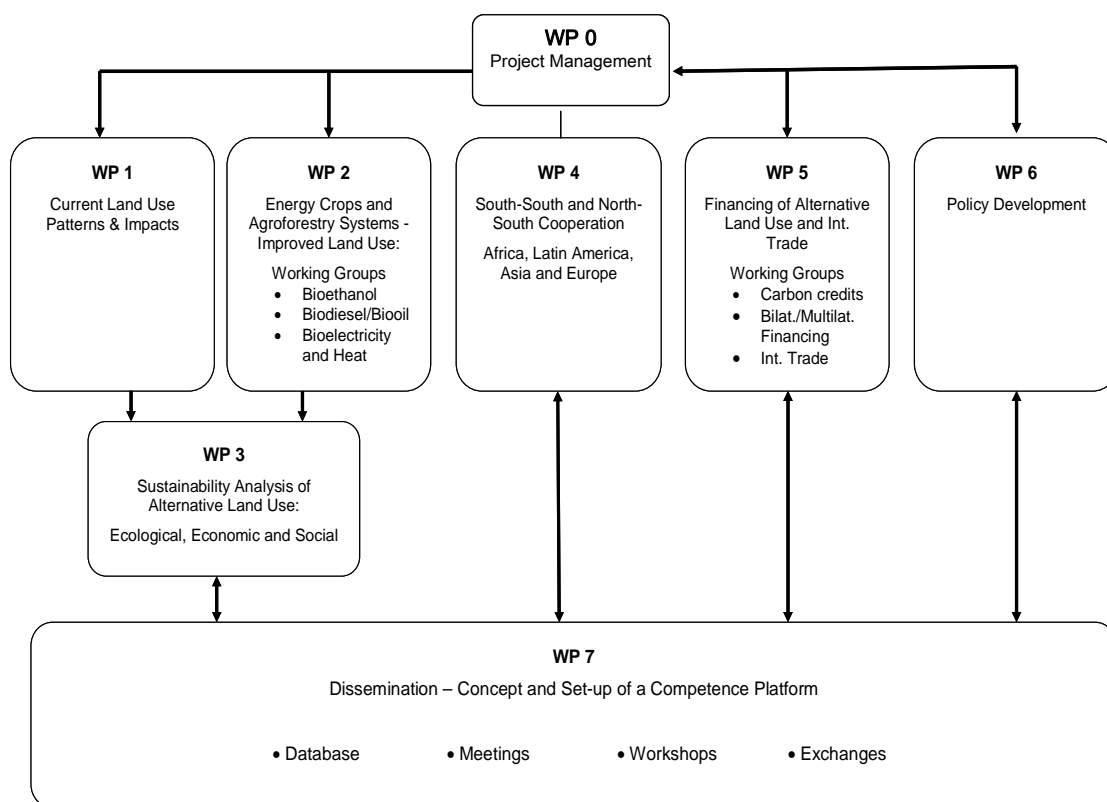


Fig. 1. COMPETE work packages organisation.

Conference Organisation

This COMPETE conference is organised by Imperial College London, United Kingdom in the framework of the **project COMPETE, funded by the European Commission, DG Research.**

This COMPETE event will take place on 16-19 June 2008 in Arusha, Tanzania and will include the following activities:

- **COMPETE Conference and Policy Debate on 'Biofuels Sustainability Schemes - An African Perspective' on 16-17 June 2008**

This conference will involve policy makers from several African countries as well as international scientists, investors and industry representatives to discuss on-going policy and strategy initiatives in the field of biofuels in Africa. Thereby, emphasis will be given to an African Perspective to mechanisms and schemes to ensure the sustainable production and use of biofuels in Africa.

- **Internal COMPETE Work Package 3 Meeting on 'Sustainability Analysis of Alternative Land Use' on 18-19 June 2008**

This internal COMPETE meeting will be restricted to project partners and registered COMPETE Associate Partners.

Conference Agenda



15 June 2008 (Sunday)

Registration of Participants

16 June 2008 (Monday)

Conference Day 1: 'Policy Debate on Biofuels Sustainability Schemes - An African Perspective'

Invited presentations will be presented by leading African, European and American (North and South) experts of bioenergy development including policy makers, scientists, investors and industry.

- Session 1 Bioenergy policy developments in Africa
- Session 2 Resources, opportunities and impacts
- Session 3 Sustainable development pathways and examples
- Session 4 Investment, regulation and good practice reward

17 June 2008 (Tuesday)

Conference Day 2: 'Policy Debate on Biofuels Sustainability Schemes - An African Perspective'

The second day of the conference will include invited presentations as well as a field visit to biofuel producers and feedstock suppliers in the vicinity of Arusha.

- Roundtable 1 Policy strategies to enhance the bioenergy potential in Africa
- Roundtable 2 Tools and means to assure sustainable bioenergy production in Africa
- Field trip organised by TATEDO

18 -19 June (Wednesday, Thursday)

Internal COMPETE Work Package 3 Meeting.

Registered Associate Partners of the COMPETE project are welcome to participate at the internal meeting.

Optionally, another field visit will be organised after the Internal COMPETE WP 3 Meeting.

Accommodation and Travel

Dates

The Compete Conference will start in the morning of Monday 16 June 2008 and it is therefore advisable to travel to Arusha during the period 14-15 June.

Hotel

The Compete Conference on 16-17 June 2008 and the Internal COMPETE meeting on 18-19 June 2008 will take place [venue to be defined] and all participants are advised to reserve their rooms individually at the hotel [hotel to be defined].

Transfers

To be defined.

Registration

Interested persons are invited to confirm their participation at the COMPETE Conference by email to Dr Rocio A Diaz-Chavez (r.diaz-chavez@imperial.ac.uk) and Dr Jeremy Woods (jeremy.woods@imperial.ac.uk) and in copy to Dr. Rainer Janssen, COMPETE project coordinator (rainer.janssen@wip-munich.de).

COMPETE Conference coordinator/contact point:

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**COMPETE Project Coordination
WP7 Coordination - Dissemination**

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WP1 Coordination – Current Land Use

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WP2 Coordination – Improved Land Use

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WP5 Coordination – Financing

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**COMPETE Project Coordination
WP3 Coordination - Sustainability**

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WP4 Coordination – International Cooperation

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Stockholm Environment Institute
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WP6 Coordination – Policies

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