

CURES: Citizens United for Renewable energy and Sustainability



INVITATION AND NOTICE

**The CURES Biofuels Capacity Building and Policy Workshop
Braamfontein, Johannesburg 10th, 11th and 13th March 2008,**

**And subsequently to the Round Table on Sustainable
Biofuels regional meeting on the 12th and 13th March**

Background:

Citizens United for Renewable Energies and Sustainability (C U R E S) - a network of NGOs and CBOs around the world calling for ambitious programs to promote renewable energies, is facilitating a programme to develop common policy on biofuels and related trade policy that deals with food security and sustainable development for civil society in the SADC region. It is doing this with the support of the Southern Africa Trust. The meeting will be hosted and coordinated by CURES southern Africa and will focus on 9 countries in Southern Africa.

The overall programme supported by the Southern Africa Trust aims to run 2 regional policy workshops and 2 regional capacity building workshops on bio energy and biofuels on the SADC region. The workshops will be used to identify locally based stakeholder organisations that are involved in bio energy and biofuels in the region who can help with compiling information and comment on policy papers. The workshops will also be used to assess progress, build shared understandings, build capacity and knowledge and develop policy. All work will be fed directly into regional and international processes in order to impact on biofuel policy development in SADC and give effect to the voice of the poor.

The main objectives of the programme are to:

- ⌘ Build capacity within civil society and small scale farmers to engage in the biofuels and trade debates in the region

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- Develop policy positions on biofuels and biofuel trade certification policy based on field studies and research that can be implemented successfully by small scale farmers and rural communities to reduce poverty and improve rural local economic development

The programme will be implemented through a networking, workshop and participatory process, as well as the development of 2 policy position papers 1) food security & rural economic development 2) trade and certification.

This invitation is to participate in the first of the two workshops to be held from the 10th – 13th March in Johannesburg, South Africa.

During this first workshop, CURES Southern Africa has agreed to partner with the International Round Table on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) , an initiative of the EPFL in Switzerland, which aims to develop standards for biofuel production (please see attached pamphlet on the RSB) . On the two days when we will partner with the RSB, on the 12th and 13th of March, the delegate composition will be expanded to include other stakeholders such as industry and governments, to debate and consider draft principles and criteria that will be used to guide all stakeholders involved in biofuel production towards more sustainable practise. This regional meeting of the RSB complements similar meetings that have already taken place in South America and South East Asia.

Biofuels Capacity Building and Policy Workshop, and the Round Table on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) regional meeting 10th - 13th March 2008, Johannesburg, South Africa

CURES will be running the first in its two capacity building and participatory workshops in the Southern African region on biofuels, trade and food security from the 10th and 11th March 2008 in Johannesburg, South Africa. It will also host a policy formulation meeting for NBOs, CBOs and small scale farmers and small scale biofuel producers on the afternoon of 13th March. The 12th and morning of 13th will be spent jointly with the RSB to develop the draft principles and criteria for the Round Table (see attached sheet and view at <http://energycentre.epfl.ch/biofuel>.)

- Monday 10th March 2008, 15h: 00 – 17h: 00 will be a basic capacity building Workshop. The first part of this capacity building workshop will focus on providing **basic information** on biofuels. ***This session is only open to NGOs, CBOs and small scale farmers and can accommodate up to 20 delegates.***
- Tuesday 11th March 2008, 09h: 00 – 16h: 00 will be a continuation of the Capacity building Workshop. This day will focus on the more complex issues including energy balances, crop types, and technologies. ***This session is only open to NGOs, CBOs and small scale farmers and can accommodate up to 60 delegates.***
- Wednesday 12th and morning of Thursday the 13th March 2008, 9h00 – 13h00 will be a joint meeting of the NGO and CBO network of CURES Southern Africa and the International Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB). The purpose of this workshop is to provide information on the RSB and to look carefully at the draft principle and criteria already developed through the multistakholder process. . ***This session will also***

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be by invitation but will be a multistakeholder forum with space for up to 60 NGO and CBO and small scale farmer delegates on each day. It will be supplemented by another 40 delegates that are from other sectors. A separate programme for this meeting will be sent once you have confirmed your attendance

- Thursday 13th March 2008, 14h00 – 17h00 will be a CURES only workshop. At this workshop the CURES researchers will present their draft paper and terms of reference for the two papers 1) on food security and rural development and 2) on trade and certification. ***This session is open to NGOs and CBOs and small scale farmers only and can accommodate up to 60 delegates.***

Who should attend the CURES capacity building events on the 10th and 11th and the CURES policy event on the 13th afternoon and the RSB/CURES event on the 12th and 13th morning?

- NGOs, CBOS, small scale farmers and government officials from the following countries (South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana) who:
 - Need and want to learn about biofuels
 - Will be able to make use of the information within their programmes and organisations
 - Are interested in developing small scale farming approaches and will be involved in lobby, advocacy and implementation
 - Can help with information on projects and programmes in their country for the case studies as part of the CURES programme and
 - Would be prepared to continue commenting on the two CURES policy papers to be developed on food security and trade.

Please Note: *The number of participants for the workshop is limited.*

Financial arrangements

CURES will cover the following costs of the invited participants:

- ⌘ a round-trip to the venue, which may not be an airfare, but may be road travel for countries located closer to South Africa, as well as any related visa, terminal and transit costs. Only economy flights will be reimbursed, but the cheapest flight must be sourced.
- ⌘ All conferences costs such as lunches and teas for all five days of participation
- ⌘ Overnight accommodation, breakfast, and set dinner in the hotel from the 10th – 13th March 2008 incl (we will make provision for those who due to flight or travel schedules can only arrive on the 9th)
- ⌘ Transfers to and from airport or bus terminal.

CURES will **not pay a per diem or stipend** to all those who will be participating in the workshop and the RSB Roundtable.

Travel arrangements

Participants are responsible for obtaining any necessary visas for South Africa or transit countries. Where feasible, participants are asked to make their own arrangements to travel to South Africa, for reimbursement by CURES during the workshop. However, such reimbursement will require you to secure three quotes for travel, provide us with your boarding passes and invoices from the travel agent or internet booking. Please do not book any travel arrangements without securing, in writing, an agreement from the CURES secretariat that you must bring with you to the workshop. Any arrangements made without such agreement will not be reimbursed.

I would be grateful if you could send us your personal details no later than 3rd March 2008, to Dorah Lebelo by fax on +27 011 702 2272 or by e-mail on dorah@cures.org.za.