

Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

An initiative of the EPFL Energy Center
Ensuring that biofuels deliver on their promise of sustainability



Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to invite you to our upcoming southern African stakeholder meeting of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels, coordinated by EPFL in partnership with CURES and the southern African Trust, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa on March 12th and 13th.

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB), launched by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), is a global initiative bringing together farmers, industry, NGOs, governments, experts, and inter-governmental agencies to draft principles of sustainable biofuels production and processing, through a transparent, collaborative process. Founding RSB Steering Board members include individuals from UNEP, Toyota, the Mali Folkecentre, Shell, BP, the World Wide Fund for Nature, TERI-India, the University of California at Berkeley, and the Dutch and Swiss governments, among others.

The expansion of biofuels brings many opportunities for rural development, climate change mitigation, and energy diversification. But it also brings challenges regarding the potential expansion of unsustainable agriculture practices, a potential rise in food prices, and encroachment into land with high conservation value. The purpose of the Roundtable is to **bring together all of the various stakeholders in the biofuels industry to ensure that the positive aspects of biofuels are promoted, and the risks avoided.**

Our hope is that through open, collaborative consensus-building, we can come to agreement on how to ensure that biofuels deliver on their promise of sustainability. We have been holding discussions on-line and via teleconferences since July, but the meeting in Johannesburg will be our first in-person discussion in Africa. As you will see in the attached agenda, we will be having a **mix of informative presentations with small-group interactive sessions** over one and a half days. We hope that all participants will come prepared to discuss openly their views about biofuels, and to learn from others.

We are including here information about the hotel in Johannesburg where we will hold the event, the Parktonian hotel in Braamfontein. It is a centrally-located hotel that is safe and secure, and the hotel will provide a free shuttle service in the evenings to local shopping areas. We can provide you with information about other hotels in the area if you wish to stay elsewhere.

Please let Annie Sugrue at annie@ecocity.org.za or Dorah Lebelo at Dorah@cures.org.za **know by March 3rd if you will be able to attend**, and if you have any questions about the event. We look forward to seeing you in Johannesburg!

Sincerely,

Annie Sugrue
Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels, EPFL

Dorah Lebelo
CURES southern African facilitator