

COMPETE Registered as Official Partnership of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

by Dr. Rainer Janssen and Dominik Rutz, WIP – Renewable Energies, Germany (rainer.janssen@wip-munich.de, dominik.rutz@wip-munich.de)

The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) is a commission with high-level representatives from member countries of the UN established in 1992 after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (The Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro. The CSD monitors progress and reports on the implementation of sustainable development goals in its member countries, and its annual meetings in New York are dedicated to selected Priority Issues tackled in two-year cycles.

The Priority Issues of the next CSD sessions in 2008-2009 address the topics ***Agriculture, Rural Development, Land, Drought, Desertification and Africa***. As these Priority Issues are well in line with the objectives and activities of the COMPETE project, it was decided to apply for a registration of COMPETE as an official Partnership for Sustainable Development at the CSD Secretariat.

Partnership initiatives have been registered with the CSD since the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002. They are voluntary, multi-partner (NGOs, governments, private sector, academia) initiatives that contribute to the implementation of internationally agreed sustainable development goals. Until today, more than 330 partnerships are registered with the CSD.

The registration of COMPETE as Partnership for Sustainable Development was accepted in October 2007. Information on COMPETE is available at the CSD Partnership website www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/.

Currently, preparations are under way for the organisation of the 16th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16) which will take place from 5-16 May 2008 at the UN Headquarters in New York. Partnerships are invited to contribute to the thematic priorities of CSD-16 through:

- Participation in the CSD-16 Partnerships Fair,
- Presentation of the partnership, and
- Partnership Information Desks

Furthermore, COMPETE has applied for the organisation of a ***Thematic Side Event at CSD-16*** covering the following issues:

- Evaluation of current and future potential for the sustainable provision of bioenergy in Africa in comparison to existing land use patterns and technologies
- Facilitation of South-South technology and information exchange capitalising the world-leading RD&D in bioenergy in the key countries Brazil, Mexico, India, China and Thailand

- Development of practical, targeted and efficient policy mechanisms for the development of bioenergy systems that enhance local value-added, assist local communities and address gender inequalities

In order to contribute to the success of CSD-16, COMPETE partners will actively get involved in the organization of partnership events in the framework of the 16th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development from 5-16 May 2008 in New York.

More information on the Commission on Sustainable Development is available at www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/. For more information on the COMPETE project, please consult the website www.compete-bioafrica.net.

The COMPETE project is co-funded by the European Commission in the 6th Framework Programme – Specific Measures in Support of International Cooperation (INCO-CT-2006-032448).

Acknowledgement: The COMPETE partnership would like to cordially thank Mr. Ivan Vera, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) for his support both during and after the partnership application process.