

## **Bio.be position paper**

### **Certification System for Sustainable Biomass Production to support Bio-energy Deployment**

**Increasing the contribution of bio-energy should deliver the projected benefits for the environment and society, while ensuring sustainability for future generations. Bio.be urges the Belgian Regional and Federal Authorities to intensify initiatives to set up criteria and a certification system for sustainable biomass production as soon as possible, preferably in a European or even global context**

The "Life Cycle Analysis" of the entire Bio-ethanol and Bio-diesel production chain has demonstrated savings in CO<sub>2</sub>-emission of 20-30 % for Bio-ethanol and 40-60 % for Bio-diesel compared to the production of gasoline/fuel from fossil sources. Bio-fuel is therefore an important lead to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in the transportation sector. The cultivation of biomass as renewable raw material for bio-fuel production creates opportunities not only for farmers of the developed countries but also for farmers of developing countries, provided that it is produced under sustainable conditions. More explicitly, it should be produced delivering profits to all stakeholders in the production chain, including farmers in the developing countries, and it should not go at the detriment of areas with high biodiversity value.

In order to ensure sustainable biomass production there is a need for a new certification system based on specific sustainability criteria. These sustainability criteria and certification system must apply to all stakeholders in the biomass production chain and for all purposes, not only for Bio-energy.

Bio-fuel producers can choose their direct supplier of biomass and thus have a certain control on the origin of the biomass. However, they lack control over the production aspects beyond their direct supplier (e.g. use of land with a high biodiversity value, competition of land use for food production, import taxes, production subsidies, ...). These aspects are controlled by national and supra-national authorities. Setting up a certification system for sustainable biomass production is therefore impossible without and dependent on initiatives and commitment of the authorities.

Creation of such international sustainability criteria and operational certification system for biomass production will avoid destruction of area's with high biodiversity value, and create real short and long term opportunities for developed and developing countries. Such system is also necessary to maintain public support for a fast development of biofuels and the biobased economy.

Therefore Bio.be calls on Regional and Federal Authorities to intensify initiatives to set up criteria and a certification system for sustainable biomass production as soon as possible, preferably in a European or even Global context. Bio.be welcomes initiatives taken by the Flemish Energy Agency and the WWF, and looks forward to a constructive dialogue with all interested stakeholders.

This position paper was developed by the Bio.be Industrial Biotech and Bio-energy Working Group. Please contact H. Francq for further information ([hugo.francq@bio.be](mailto:hugo.francq@bio.be))



**Bio.be is the Belgian biotechnology industry organisation.**  
Founded on January 23 2006 as a result of the merger of the Belgian Bioindustries Association (BBA) and BelgoBiotech, Bio.be represents the companies and professionals involved in research, development, testing, production or marketing of biotechnology applications, as well as those servicing the biotechnology community.

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