



DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS



CONCEPT NOTE

Virtual Meeting

Bioenergy for sustainable development: Ethanol and electricity from sugarcane

23 March 2022

10:00 – 11:30 AM (NYT time)

11:00 – 12:30 (Brazil Time)

BACKGROUND

Sustainable production and consumption of bioenergy represent considerable opportunities that support the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Nevertheless, there are significant barriers to scaling up and replicating bioenergy good practices. The creation of an enabling environment for sustainable bioenergy production and the improvement of the management of water resources are necessary conditions for the development of bioenergy programmes in many countries that have great potential for biofuel use. This requires multi-stakeholder alliances among the public, private and civil society sectors that would allow feasible responses ensuring responsible consumption and production.

Bioenergy can play a role in most economic sectors. In the power sector, bioenergy can provide flexibility to balance intermittent and seasonal wind and solar resources. In industry, biomass can efficiently supply high-temperature process heat, in combination with a variety of valuable bio-based chemicals and materials. In the building sector, biomass provides the feedstock for highly efficient district heating systems, furnaces and cook stoves. In transport, liquid and gaseous biofuels can help reducing fossil fuel use. Biofuels also represent an alternative to fossil fuels for aviation, marine shipping and heavy freight transport. An important bioenergy source for the generation of electricity and for the production of ethanol for transportation purposes is sugarcane.

The bioenergy industry must carry out concrete actions to improve human welfare, reduce environmental risks and the loss of biodiversity, and at the same time, achieve economic development and efficient resource consumption. Furthermore, for the generation of clean energy it is important to implement public policies that guarantee the appropriate development of the industry and the preservation of natural resources, which will also help to create business and economic growth opportunities. The appropriate development of the bioenergy industry can have a positive impact on the lives of people by creating new jobs and inducing prosperity.

Ensuring universal access to modern and sustainable energy, water and sanitation services while reducing related environmental impacts lies at the heart of sustainable development. The Division for Sustainable Development Goals of UN DESA is conducting a number of initiatives and events designed to support the integrated implementation of SDG 6 (water) and SDG 7 (energy). One of these initiatives is the Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network (<https://www.un.org/en/waterenergynetwork>). This capacity development event, organized by this Network in cooperation with its member ASAZGUA, will bring together multi-stakeholders to discuss and showcase existing



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initiatives and disseminate information on sustainable production and use of ethanol and generation of electricity from sugarcane.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this capacity building event is to provide a virtual space for the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and experiences related to bioenergy and to the production and use of ethanol and electricity from sugarcane. The expected outcome is audiences with knowledge on sustainable bioenergy systems, sustainable consumption and production patterns that optimize the use of raw materials, economic growth from the development and production of bioenergy, synergies from actions carried out following a sustainable development approach and the implementation of effective alliances and public policies.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants will include representatives from public, private, and non-profit organizations, as well as international organizations, civil society and practitioners involved and interested in the research, development, management and implementation of bioenergy systems and related sustainable consumption and production patterns.

TIME

This event will be held on 23 March 2022 as a virtual meeting from 11:00 to 12:30 am, Brazil time.