



## African Bioenergy Convention

17 – 19 March 2010, Stellenbosch, South Africa

26 March 2010

Dear African Bioenergy Stakeholder

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### Draft Resolution on Sustainable Bioenergy for Africa

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#### African Convention of the GSB Project - 17 – 19 March 2010

#### ***GSB Project background:***

Bioenergy can potentially address urgent sustainability, energy supply and rural economic development challenges in the world. Yet the world is currently uncertain whether to look to bioenergy to play a prominent role in a sustainable future. The Global Sustainable Bioenergy (GSB) project seeks to bring needed clarity to this situation within a three-stage framework:

- **Stage 1:** Hold five continental conventions to approve resolutions representing perspectives on bioenergy from each of the world's continents, to gather input for Stages 2 and 3, and to endorse a common resolution on bioenergy and the goals of the GSB project.
- **Stage 2:** Ask the question, "*Is it physically possible for bioenergy to sustainably meet a substantial fraction of future demand for energy (more than 25% of global energy) while feeding humanity, meeting needs from lands and maintaining environmental quality?*" GSB intends to approach this unconstrained, since a sustainable and secure future cannot be obtained by continuing practices that have led to the unsustainable and insecure present.
- **Stage 3:** Analyze and recommend transition paths and policies in light of Stage 2 results, incorporating analysis of macroeconomic, environmental, ethical and equity issues as well as local-scale effects on rural economies.

When completed, the GSB project will provide critical guidance towards the overall feasibility of a sustainable, bioenergy-intensive, low carbon energy future and will define policy and land use trajectories that foster this outcome. [<http://engineering.dartmouth.edu/gsbproject/>]

#### ***African Bioenergy Convention:***

The African Bioenergy Convention was held 17-19 March 2010 in Stellenbosch, South Africa and attended by 40 participants from 8 countries, including 9 participants from other continents. Prominent industries in the agricultural and forestry sectors were also represented. The convention shared African, Brazilian, continental and global perspectives. An overview of the global GSB project was also given. The discussion on the road ahead towards stages 2 and 3 will be communicated in the joint report after the continental conventions. Proceedings can be viewed at: <http://academic.sun.ac.za/biofuels/Convention/Presentations.html>.

Break-out groups were formed that evoked constructive discussions on the issues, needs and challenges for sustainable bioenergy in Africa and culminated into a powerful draft African Bioenergy Resolution (see attached).

***Involving stakeholders in Africa:***

All participants at the African Bioenergy Convention supported the drafted African Bioenergy Resolution unanimously and left the Convention rejuvenated with a sense of excitement and united believe that "*Africa brings important assets and wants to be an active partner (towards a sustainable future) but needs to ensure that bioenergy development is implemented in a way that contributes to critical human needs. A sustainable globe requires a sustainable Africa*".

However, we wish to share this vision with the larger community of stakeholders in Africa and thus request general written support/endorsement of the draft resolution before 1 June 2010.

We also would welcome constructive feedback, both suggestions and considerations. It would be great if you could widely disseminate the resolution and actions flowing from that to other stakeholders in Africa.

Eventually, we ultimately wish for you to join hands with the GSB project in a quest for Africa to actively participating to a sustainable future.

Yours sincerely



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