



IEA Bioenergy webinar

Approaches to gain trust in sustainability of bioenergy through credible governance

Results from collaboration within IEA Bioenergy and other research networks

(Link for webinar will soon become available. Please contact Inge Stupak, ism@ign.ku.dk to be listed)

13 September 2018
4 pm CEST (10 am EST)

Moderator: C.T. (Tat) Smith

Presenter: Inge Stupak

Summary

The sustainability of bioenergy is seriously questioned by some groups, while other organizations work to make bioenergy a part of the solution for a more sustainable future. However, the potentials of bioenergy may not be realized unless conditions are provided for the first groups to grant trust to the latter for their implementation of jointly agreed sustainable practices. Difference of opinions should always be allowed, but misapprehension of data should be mitigated by open communication and scientific analysis. The work presented in this webinar will not be an immediately applicable guide on how to bridge the 'trust gaps' through sustainability governance, but it explores approaches in different geographical regions for local and international bioenergy supply chains based on primary agricultural or forest feedstock, or residue and waste streams. A general pattern emerges that market development is linked to political incentive structures, and that sustainability governance develop over time to fit different phases of development, adapting to new knowledge or as new priorities occur. We venture to hope that such knowledge may help to make sustainability governance systems a conscious part of bioenergy development, and be useful for those who are currently not confident that bioenergy has a role to play in sustainable development for the future.

Short professional biographies

Tat Smith is Professor in forest ecology and soils at the University of Toronto. His major research contributions and research management responsibilities have generally been in the area of developing sustainable forest management systems for bioenergy feedstock production, with specific focus on: environmental impacts of bioenergy production in plantation and natural forests; the utility of environmental certification systems defining Sustainable Forest Management; environmental impacts of land application of municipal and pulp and paper mill wastewater treatment biosolids and effluents; and impact of intensive harvesting on forest ecosystem nutrient and carbon cycling and site productivity. Tat is work package Leader and National Team Leader for Canada in IEA Bioenergy Task 43 “Biomass Feedstocks for Energy Markets”.

Inge Stupak is Associate Professor in environmental impacts of wood energy production systems at the University of Copenhagen. Her current research focus on analysis of legitimacy and effectiveness of sustainability governance of bioenergy supply chains, and effects of land use and management changes on forest biomass and soil carbon. She is the Danish national team leader in the research network IEA Bioenergy Task 43 reach on ‘Biomass feedstocks for Energy Markets’, and also participated in teams providing technical assistance to the EU and the Danish Energy Agency on topics related to sustainability of forest energy biomass.