

Brainstorming on how to best grab the attention of policy makers (and other target groups) on the impacts of the biofuels consumption in a country (advocacy).

Group 2

Workshop on the Strategic Framework for the African Bioenergy
Data Management
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What are the main target groups which should receive data and messages on biomass in your country?

- Policymakers, politicians (advocates)
- Specialized Ministries
- Communities (biomass users, respondents), so as to get them involved in strategy adoption and ensure buy-in in surveys.
- Mainstream media and social media
- Municipalities

What data and what messages?

- Share of biomass in energy consumption/use
 - Nationally, by region and locally
 - Stress how important it is
 - Pie charts
- Biomass resource potential, regionally
- Deforestation/desertification potential

How best to pass these data and messages to these target groups?

- All kinds of media:
 - mainstream media,
 - community radios
 - social media
 - rural radio

- Local leaders and institutions
 - Community leaders
 - Opinion leaders (in the communities)
 - Religious leaders (church)
 - Village chiefs
 - Central workshops

- Local languages should not be forgotten!

How to establish a bioenergy data collection system integrated with national policy and priorities?

- Coordination by Energy Authority; other stakeholders are part of it.
 - Assessment of all stakeholders
 - Regular stakeholder meetings
- Centralization of data collection by local communities and industries that use biomass (top-down approach).
- Follow regional directives (ECOWAS, AFREC)
- Follow up on projects that were created

If you had to send messages on biomass to your Energy Minister, what would be the top 5 messages you would like to pass?

1. Percentage/importance of biomass in the country energy supply
2. Effects of unsustainable use of biomass
 - a) Biomass is not free, it has costs
 - b) Use billboards to ensure buy-in from public → pressure
3. Policy, guidelines on regulation of bioenergy use must be put in place
 - a. How to reduce its use?
 - b. How to generate revenue through regulation, which can be used to promote sustainable use?
4. Promotion of clean energies and sustainable use of biomass
 - a. Covers efficiency, health, etc.
5. Interrelationship between SDG7 and other goals

What are your main learnings from this workshop?

- Role and needs of biomass
 - biomass receives little attention but plays considerable role
- Country presentations, their experiences and reality
 - Coming together, making connections, sharing experiences
- Questionnaires, modelling
- Economic contribution in terms of employment and GDP
 - The contribution is huge, but there is opportunity to increase it
- Potential for the biomass industry to work more efficiently locally and internationally

Quality reviews

- Quality reviews can be done in the form of:
 - Self-assessments (comprehensive, systematic),
 - Audits (comprehensive, systematic, done by a third party), or
 - Peer reviews (more informal; done by a third party).
- Promote the identification of improvement actions/opportunities in processes and products.
- Some form of quality review of energy statistics programmes should be undertaken periodically,
 - E.g., every four to five years; or
 - More frequently, if significant methodological or other changes in the data sources occur.

Final remarks

- Follow international guidelines as much as possible, ensuring comparability and replicability
- Prioritize the quality issues based on their impact on the aggregate data.
- Unlikely to correct all issues related to quality in the timeframe allotted, so it is good practice to focus on those issues that have the most impact.
- Metadata