

FAO BEFSCI DEFINITIONS OF KEY BIOENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY TERMS

The FAO's Bioenergy and Food Security Criteria and Indicators (BEFSCI) project aims to develop a set of criteria, indicators and good practices on sustainable bioenergy production that safeguards and, if possible, fosters food security.

The following definitions of key bioenergy and food security-related terms apply to all BEFSCI's principles, criteria, indicators and good practices.

BIOENERGY TERMS

BIOENERGY: “All energy derived from biofuels” (FAO, 2004).

Biofuels: “Fuel[s]¹ produced directly or indirectly from biomass” (FAO, 2004).

Biomass: “Material of biological origin excluding material embedded in geological formations and transformed to fossil” (FAO, 2004).

There are three types of biofuels: woodfuels, agrofuels and biofuels from municipal wastes. Each of them may be solid, liquid or gaseous.

- *Woodfuels*: all types of biofuels originating directly or indirectly from trees, bushes and shrubs (i.e. woody biomass) grown on forest and non-forest lands² (FAO, 2004).
- *Agrofuels*: biofuels obtained as a product of energy crops and/or agricultural (including animal) and agro-industrial by-products (see definitions below) (FAO, 2004).
- *Biofuels from municipal waste*: these include municipal solid waste incinerated to produce heat and/or power, and biogas from the anaerobic fermentation of both solid and liquid municipal wastes (FAO, 2004).

Agricultural by-products: “Biomass by-products originating from production, harvesting and processing in farm areas” (FAO, 2004).

Animal by-products: “Agricultural by-products originating from livestock keeping. It includes among others solid excreta of animals” (FAO, 2004).

Agro-industrial by-products: “Several kinds of biomass materials produced chiefly in food and fibre processing industries” (FAO, 2004).

¹ *Fuel*: “energy carrier intended for energy conversion” (FAO, 2004).

² For the purpose of this project, “traditional” (unsustainable) fuelwood and charcoal production will not be considered.

FOOD SECURITY TERMS

FOOD SECURITY: “Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (World Food Summit, 1996).

Food security comprises four components: availability, access, utilization and stability.

- *Food availability*: “The availability of sufficient quantities of food of appropriate quality, supplied through domestic production or imports (including food aid)” (FAO, 2006).
- *Food access*: “Access by individuals to adequate resources (entitlements) for acquiring appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. Entitlements are defined as the set of all commodity bundles over which a person can establish command given the legal, political, economic and social arrangements of the community in which they live (including traditional rights such as access to common resources)” (FAO, 2006).
- *Food utilization*: “Utilization of food through adequate diet, clean water, sanitation and health care to reach a state of nutritional well-being where all physiological needs are met. This brings out the importance of non-food inputs in food security” (FAO, 2006).
- *Food stability*: “To be food secure, a population, household or individual must have access to adequate food at all times. They should not risk losing access to food as a consequence of sudden shocks (e.g. an economic or climatic crisis) or cyclical events (e.g. seasonal food insecurity). The concept of stability can therefore refer to both the availability and access dimensions of food security” (FAO, 2006).

References

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). 2006. “Food Security”. *Policy Brief*. June 2006, Issue 2.

ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/ESA/policybriefs/pb_02.pdf

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