



NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

newsletter

BIOENERGY

The Global Bioenergy Partnership



BIOENERGY OFFERS MANY NEW OPPORTUNITIES, but if its development is not handled carefully, it also carries significant risks. With the need for a coherent, intergovernmental approach to sustainable bioenergy in mind, the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) was established in 2006.

FAO is a founding partner of GBEP and its secretariat is based in FAO's Rome Headquarters. Currently, GBEP counts among its membership 36 partners, including 23 governments and 13 organizations, and 32 observers, including 22 governments and 10 organizations. The newly established Task Force overseeing GBEP's work is chaired by Italy and co-chaired by Brazil.

"The establishment of the Task Force was crucial for moving ahead with the work of GBEP," according to Michela Moresse, the GBEP Project Coordinator. "The participatory process is a key component of the Global Bioenergy Partnership and the Task Force plays an important role in informing about the decision-making role of the partnership, facilitating access to information about sustainable bioenergy and providing science-based measurements to ensure sustainability. We are very pleased to be able to announce that a list of 24 sustainability indicators have been approved by governments active in GBEP"

Twenty-four GBEP sustainability indicators have been approved. They are set against three pillars – environmental, social and economic – with special attention focused on the interlinkages between them.

GBEP Programme Officer Jonathan Reeves worked closely with the approval process for these indicators and notes that it was "a joint political and technical process that was very participatory in nature. Governments were closely involved in devising these indicators and they ensured the involvement of their technical officers throughout the entire process. As a result, there is a strong feeling of ownership on the part of participating governments and we have also been receiving numerous expressions of interest to take part in the upcoming pilot projects."



Upcoming work for the Global Bioenergy Partnership include further refining the twenty-four indicators and working to involve additional civil society organizations in the process. The Partnership is currently identifying pilot countries to use the new indicators, an important first step for testing their usefulness on the ground and ensuring that these measurements are carefully embedded into national planning processes.



To learn more:

[Global Bioenergy Partnership site](#)
[Global Bioenergy Partnership Sustainability Indicators](#)
[Bioenergy web site](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources and Environment Newsletter



WELCOME TO THIS ISSUE of the Natural Resources and Environment Newsletter.

In this issue, we discuss the Global Bioenergy Partnership and the important work it is undertaking – in collaboration with governments and international organizations - to establish sustainability indicators for bioenergy projects.

We also report on the Food for the Cities Initiative, an integrative approach to coordinating FAO's activities in urban and peri-urban areas and sharing best practices with other international and civil society organizations.

Finally, we introduce the new water report "Climate change, water and food security".

To learn more:

Natural Resources Management and Environment Department
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

www.fao.org/nr

LAND TENURE

The FAO - Food for the Cities multi-disciplinary initiative project

“FAO IS MOST COMMONLY PERCEIVED as an organization primarily working for rural areas,” according to Paul Munro-Faure, Principal Officer of the Land, Energy and Tenure Division and Chairperson of FAO’s Food for the Cities initiative, “but with rapidly shifting demographic changes, one of the biggest challenges we face now is how to feed the swelling urban and peri-urban populations and to how to best manage land and other natural resources around cities.”

Last year, for the first time in history, more than 50% of the world’s population resided in cities. By 2050, demographers predict that a full 70% of the 9 billion world population will be city dwellers while cities will have to face the effects of climate change.

This rapid urbanization will create tremendous strains on the provision of adequate and safe supplies of food and water to burgeoning urban populations, particularly in developing countries where part of the urban growth is occurring in slum areas. In light of these new challenges, FAO established the Food for the Cities initiative in 2000.

The Food for the Cities initiative works to better coordinate FAO’s sectoral work in urban and peri-urban areas, in addition to coordinating and sharing experiences and best practices with other international organizations, local authorities and national governments,



the private sector, and civil society organizations. It supports inter-agencies work, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas and direct collaboration primarily with UN HABITAT, but also within the Global Food Security Cluster with the World Food Programme.

FAO’s Food for the Cities initiative has been active in promoting nutrition education; enhancing food safety; supporting urban and peri-urban horticulture production; increasing access to quality irrigation technologies; supporting small livestock and dairy production; promoting urban and peri-urban forestry; improving urban food supply and distribution systems; and providing emergency support to internally displaced persons or other vulnerable communities due to natural and man-made disasters.

Food for the Cities supports a people-centred approach of the food systems, articulated with their eco-systems based on strengthening urban-rural linkages. Julien Custot, FAO’s Food for the Cities initiative Facilitator, stresses that “FAO plays a key role in bringing food and agriculture into the urban agenda. It also works to connect urban actors to the food and agriculture challenges, from the local to the global levels, with the inclusion of all stakeholders”.

Those interested in learning more about the Food for the Cities initiative are welcome to join the global network, exchanging information and experiences with participants from about eighty countries.

To learn more:

[Food for the Cities](#)

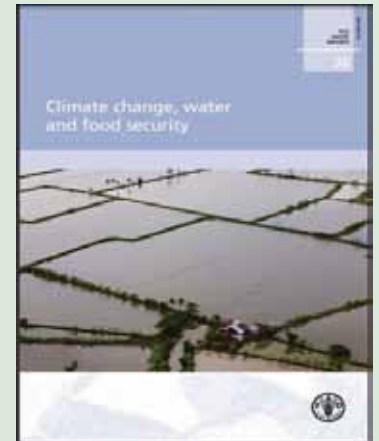
[Food for the Cities brochure](#)

[Food for Cities Dgroups list](#)

[Land Tenure home page](#)



WATER RESOURCES



New publication: Climate change, water and food security

THIS NEW, COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY of existing scientific knowledge on the anticipated consequences of climate change for water use in agriculture warns that climate change will have major impacts on the availability of water for growing food.

This report examines actions to be taken by policymakers, water experts and individual farmers in order to better adapt to these new conditions.

This study also considers the specific impacts of climate change in different regions of the world and focuses on action needed to assist countries in assessing probable climate change impacts on irrigated agriculture.

To learn more:

[Climate change, water and food security](#)

[Press release: Climate change - major impacts on water for farming](#)

[Water Resources site](#)