

GREEN REVOLUTION & ENERGY FOR AFRICA

CONTRIBUTIVE NOTE TO THE PANEL DISCUSSIONS

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PRESENTED BY :

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Dears Sirs,

On behalf of Mr Soumaïla CISSE, President of WAEMU Commission, I would like to thank the YARA International Group which has invited us to participate to the Oslo Conference whose main item is « GREEN REVOLUTION AND ENERGY IN AFRICA ».

Also, I thank all the institutions which have contributed to the good preparation of this Conference, particularly ROBOBANK, NORAD and NORFUND.

Established by the January 10th, 1994's Treaty, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) is composed of the eight (8) countries members that are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Bissau Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. It covers 3, 5 Millions square Kilometres for 78 millions of inhabitants (estimated in 2004) and a nominative GDP of CFA 22.202,3 billions (estimated in 2004) which represents 4, 4 billions dollar US. The demographic growth is about 3%; its HDI is between 0,292 and 0, 5001 (UNDP 2003). The main activities are traditional livestock and agriculture with a growing industry in the costal zones.

In 2005, the economic activity in WAEMU countries was dominated by the services sector (tertiary) which participated for 48, 5% in the GDP. Agriculture occupies more than 2/3 of the population and contribute for 32, 2% in the GDP formation. The industrial sector, less developed, represents 19, 3% of the GDP and produce mainly consumer goods and some materials of equipment.

The Global energy situation of WAEMU countries is characterized by predominance of biomass energy (charcoal, wood fuel, residues from biomass...) in the energy balance with a heavy dependency on oil and gas. The balance is as follow :

- 80% about traditional energy ;
- 15% oil and gas ;
- 5% Electricity.

In spite of spite the biomass dominancy in the energy balances, its contribution in income generation in the region remains marginal.

While being reduced at the second rank in most of the National Energy Policies of the country members as compared to conventional energy, biomass energy have a strong social, economic and environmental dimension. Biomass energy embraces the entire economical sector in the sub region and the lives of its 78 millions inhabitants. It is used as domestic energy and to power most of the informal and industrial activities. Therefore Biomass Energy plays a central role in the WAEMU countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which aims to reduce the overall level of poverty.

In the context of WAEMU countries, it is important to increase production efficiency as well as the accessibility in order to satisfy the growing energy needs of the population and while maintaining a balance between the economy and the environment.

According to the World Energy Council (WEC), for 5 persons without electricity, 4 of them come from rural areas in developing countries, mainly in South of Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. More than 92% from rural areas do not access to electricity; women in these zones get 20 Kg of woods /day transported from 5 *kilometers* to cook their food. Currently, there are 2 billions of persons living with less than 1 Dollar/day and who cannot access commercial energy forms.

So far, FAO says that nowadays, fossil energy economy will regress to the profit of bio energy due to the support of agriculture and forestry that is providing increasing resources such as wood, charcoal, wood pellets bio ethanol, bio diesel, bioelectricity. The concept of agro energy and liquid bio fuels which are becoming more and more important in Brazil and recently in the OCDE countries, notably in transportation and electricity generation sector. Agriculture's role as a source of energy resources is going to be very significant in the near future Africa can play an important role in this matter due to the large availability of land, appropriated climates for growing energy crops and cheaper labour cost. WAEMU can become a leading producer for ethanol and biodiesel to contribute to the growing energy need worldwide while providing millions of jobs to its farmers and in the industrial sector.

So, Sub Saharan African countries must have to reduce poverty and ensure food security by finding steps to strong policies of integrated rural development by enhancing agriculture and developing competitive agro industrial chain. For example, number of agro-industries, like sugar factories which converse bagasse in heat and electricity, becoming IPPs. Other ones produce ethanol, electricity to grids and vinass which is a good fertiliser for agriculture. Also,

the bioenergy potential from banana, coffee, rice, millet or cassava and numerous other agriculture products is considerable.

Knowing well these advantages and opportunities, the WAEMU Commission, in the framework of his Common Energy Policy (PEC) is implementing since January 2005 the Biomass Energy Regional Program (BERP) with the financial support of Dutch Government in the eight countries of the Union. This program's objective is to contribute to sustainable management of biomass energy and to the promotion of alternative sources of energy for poverty reduction. Concrete results of the BERP can be summarised with the following project :

- Mechanical Agriculture based on Pourghère (jetropha) in Mali ;
- Cogeneration heat and electricity from cashew shell in Bissau Guinea ;
- Bioelectricity generating in Burkina Faso, in Benin and in Senegal tending better conservation of food production like fruits, vegetables, milk, etc.;
- Valorisation of molasses residues in ethanol (Senegal).

All this developments shows that we are in phase with the Oslo Conference and that we support the initiative of « GREEN REVOLUTION IN AFRICA and sustainable energy so that we get the millennium goals. That is the aim of our Vision Document on regional strategy to valorise biomass energy for sustainable development adopted recently during the Cotonou Workshop with following credo: **« Contribute to reduce poverty in the UEMOA area by integrated development approach supported by the biomass energy sub sector with coherent strategies and programs ».**

Concluding recommendations :

1. Promote in sub Sahara Africa integrated rural development, policies, incentive measures for private sector in valorising biofuels from agriculture and forestry biomass ;
2. Develop energy plantations (notably sustainable plantations) that can contribute to prevent erosion such as the jetropha experience in Mali ;
3. Launch bioenergy programs with high value like ethanol based in sweet sorghum, sugar cane and promote cooperation between Europe and Africa to enhance the existing assets in terms of good availability of land, rivers for irrigated energy crop and cheaper manpower.

In this perspective, I ask financial and technical institutions here by to pay particular attention to our economic space and help us reduce our dependence to fossil fuels and tackle poverty. Bio energy can contribute to food security and produce lot of jobs while making the environment and the economical growth mutually supportive.

Thank you for your attention!!!