Biofuels Assessment on Technical Opportunities and Research needs for Latin America -

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As fossil reserves become scarcer and the price for crude oil drastically increases, new energy sources have to be explored. The transport sector today mainly depends on liquid fuels and an opportunity to substitute fossil fuels is biofuels. Thus, the European Union (EU) has implemented several policies to support the use of biofuels, relying on both, domestically produced and imported biofuels, as available agricultural land for biofuel production in the EU is limited. The potential for biofuel production in Latin America is much larger and cooperation among the two continents is encouraged. Therefore the European Commission supports the BioTop project in the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7). The overall objective of BioTop is to identify technical opportunities and research needs for Latin America and to create and support specific RTD cooperation activities between Latin America and the European Union in order to maximize synergies in the biofuels sectors. This paper presents objectives and first results of the BioTop project with special emphasis on biomass potential, improved conversion technologies, sustainability, standardization, trade, and RTD cooperation opportunities.

General information
State: Published
Organisations: UNEP Risoe Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development (URC), Systems Analysis Division, Risø National Laboratory for Sustainable Energy, Innovation Systems and Foresight, Department of Management Engineering, WIP Renewable Energies, University of Graz, BTG Biomass Technology Group BV, Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, MedioAmbientales y Tecnológicas, Argentine Chamber of Renewable Energies, CENBIO Brazilian Reference Center on Biomass, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Fundacion Bariloche
Publication date: 2008

Host publication information
Title of host publication: 16th European Biomass Conference & Exhibition proceedings
Keywords: sustainable use of biomass, R & D policy, liquid biofuels
URLs:
http://www.conference-biomass.com/Previous-Conference.70.0.html
Source: orbit
Source-ID: 250369
Research output: Research › Article in proceedings – Annual report year: 2008