

March 5, 2009

Joint recommendation on the sustainability of biofuels

Provisional Translation

Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by Japanese stakeholders should not conversely produce more greenhouse gas emissions in producing countries, nor should it cause more environmental destruction and social problems. We here recommend to business sector, government agencies, and end consumers, who are involved with production, processing, import, and consumption of biofuels, to reconsider use of biomass resources with a comprehensive perspective and to construct low-consumption society as well as to examine the sustainability of biofuels with the following principles:

0. Fundamental actions should be taken for reducing energy demand. Use of local biomass resources and land for production of biofuels should be studied comprehensively by comparing to other usages, such as food production and material use as well as by considering into account the external economy. Subsidies for introduction of biofuels should be reviewed as well.
1. No conversions of natural habitat, such as forests and peatlands, should accompany with production of biofuel resources:
2. Resources, including agricultural lands, land productivity, and water, for food production should not be stressed in any ways;
3. Source of raw material supply should be identified and traceability system can be confirmed through supply chain.
4. Total effect of greenhouse gasses reduction should be ensured through all lifecycle of the biofuel production, processing, distribution and consumption;
5. Following conditions should be fulfilled in production of raw materials:
 - 5.1. **Compliance:** International and domestic laws, rules and standards on human rights of local people and workers, conditions of work, and impacts on environment in production and processing should be complied with.
 - 5.2. **Environmental and social impact assessment:** Environmental and social impact assessment should be implemented appropriately and in a transparent manner, and the results should be publicly opened.
 - 5.3. **Social consent:** Rights of local communities should be respected, and there should be free and prior informed consent among those communities with sufficient information. There should not be any conflicts with interested stakeholders.
 - 5.4. **Environmental management:** Management of waste water and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions such as methane, restriction of high risk pesticide, reduction and integrative management of pesticide use should be conducted. In producing and manufacturing processes, genetically modified organisms should not be released to environment.

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Endorsed by 21 NPOs/NGOs and 14 individuals in Japan