

Joint recommendation on transportation biofuel considering sustainability

Climate change is one of threats not only to human but also to whole ecosystem and it is needed that we prevent the problem in every way. At the same time, we undersigned NGOs and NPOs which are tackling global environmental issues, believes that any measures to prevent climate change should be considered from all aspect of “sustainability”, not just be focused on reducing global warming gas emissions. .

Regarding measures in transportation sector, it is important to reduce energy demand fundamentally by establishing sustainable transportation system.

In present, Japanese government plans to promote the use of biofuel for achieving emissions target determined in Kyoto protocol. It is an important policy in terms of shifting energy use from fossil energy to renewable energy; however, current plan is implicitly expecting that most biofuel will be imported from abroad. We worry that rapid demand increase for biofuel from palm oil or sugarcane will produce negative impacts on environment and society, such as inappropriate development of plantation and competition with food demand.

The measure for reducing greenhouse gas emission should not cause more environmental destruction and social problems in producer countries. We suggest corporations, government agencies, and end consumers, involving in production, process, importation, and consumption of biofuel, to employ following policies and principals of supply below.

0. Fundamental actions should be taken for reducing the demand of transportation fuel.
1. Biomass resources produced domestically or locally and without competition with food supply should be used primarily.
2. Supply source of raw material should be identified and traceability system should be ensured through supply chain.
3. Through whole process of production, process, distribution and consumption of biofuel, it has to prevent global warming.
4. Following conditions should be met in production of raw materials
 - 4.1. Compliance: International and domestic rules and standards on human rights of residents and workers, conditions of work, and impacts on environment in production and processing are obeyed.
 - 4.2. Environmental and social impact assessment: Environmental and social impact assessment should be implemented appropriately and results are publicly opened.
 - 4.3 conservation of ecosystem: natural forests and other ecosystems, especially, high conservation value ecosystems, should not be degraded.
 - 4.4. Social agreement: 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 conflict with interested stakeholders.
 - 4.5. Environmental management: management of wastewater and reduction of greenhouse gas emission 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.

22nd Jan. 2007

Biomass Industrial Society Network, FoE Japan and Global Environmental Forum