



Renewable Fuels Agency: Review of Indirect Effects of Biofuels

Progress Bulletin 2
17th April 2008

1. Previous Updates

This bulletin follows on from the update of 8th April. This can be viewed at:

http://www.renewablefuelsagency.org/db/documents/Biofuels_Review_-_Progress.pdf

2. Call for Evidence

The call for evidence which was publicised on our website and through stakeholder networks has now closed. The submissions have been categorised and shared with the relevant study teams so that they can be integrated into the studies. Over 70 submissions were received. Summary information on their content will be provided in the final review document. Although the call is now closed, the evidence@renewablefuelsagency.org inbox is still open. If you have any further evidence that you would like to submit, please do so and the RFA will make every effort to consider it.

For more details, please go to:

<http://www.renewablefuelsagency.org/reportsandpublications/reviewoftheindirecteffectsofbiofuels.cfm>

3. Input Studies

As described in bulletin 1, the studies are the key inputs into the review. Regular updates are held with the study teams to ensure their work continues to be aligned with the original terms of reference. The findings of the studies will be considered in the stakeholder workshop described in section 5 of this document.

4. Expert Seminars

The review has created considerable interest in the UK and further afield. A number of seminars are being planned to bring together our study teams, review authors and external experts in the field. A seminar looking specifically at land use change, land availability and drivers on land use will take place in late April. This will bring together recognised agricultural economists, scientific researchers and representatives from industry and the NGO sector to look closely at land and its relation to biofuel

production. The conclusions from the seminar will input into the final drafting of the review.

In early May, relevant study team members will meet a group of Dutch experts to share the findings of their work. Again, the RFA hopes that this will provide a forum for constructive debate on the evidence that is currently available.

5. Stakeholder Workshop

Please find below more details of the forthcoming stakeholder workshop.

Workshop Title: 'RFA Review into the Indirect Effects of Biofuels: Stakeholder review of evidence'

Date: 22nd May 2008 10am - 4.30pm

Venue: Lecture Room B34, Birkbeck College, University of London, Malet Street, Bloomsbury, London WC1E 7HX

How to get there: <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/maps/howtogether>

Map of the venue: <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/maps> (Building 1 on the pdf. **NOTE: You can only enter from the Torrington Square side of the building, not Malet Street**)

As you know from the original DfT and RFA press releases of 21st February 2008, the review is being led by the RFA at the request of the Secretary of State for Transport, Ruth Kelly. The call for evidence for the review closed on 14th April and there are a number of individual scientific studies currently being undertaken that will form the evidence base for the drafting of the review. In addition, several expert workshops are planned in the UK and overseas which will allow the review study teams and authors to meet leading international figures in this field. All this evidence and the findings of the studies will be discussed at the 22nd May workshop.

The review is focused around six key questions, which are:

1. What are the key drivers of land use change and food insecurity to date and to what extent is increasing demand for biofuels significant?
2. To what extent may global demand for biofuels contribute to land use change and food insecurity to 2020 given known current and proposed targets and anticipated future commodity prices?
3. How are GHG-savings from biofuels affected by displaced agricultural activity and resulting land-use change taking into account the introduction of possible new technologies and other changes in land productivity and cultivation and production methods?
4. What are the sustainability risks associated with different levels and forms of biofuel targets to 2020 for a range of supply scenarios?
5. What policies can mitigate the potential negative indirect effects of biofuels on land-use change and food security?
6. What further work would help to monitor and evaluate displacement effects of biofuels?

The workshop will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to discuss the initial findings of the review study groups. The comments and suggestions made at the stakeholder workshop will be passed to the team authoring the final report (to be published in the summer), making this an excellent opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the report's conclusions.

The preliminary agenda for the meeting is:

- Background to the RFA review
- Overview of the findings of the study groups
- Overview of the evidence gained through the call for evidence and the expert seminars
- Group discussion on the findings by key question
- Group discussion on the findings overall
- Plenary session including next steps for the Review team

The workshop will be attended by the review authors, some members of the study teams and others closely involved in the production of the review.

Attendees will be sent summaries of the study group findings to read through before the meeting.

It is expected that there will be a great deal of interest in this meeting, and if you would like to attend please register your interest as soon as possible by sending your name, organisation, full contact details and, importantly, **the two key questions (above) that are of most interest to you** in an email to enquiries@renewablefuelsagency.org Places are limited so reserve your place without delay.