



Renewable Fuels Agency: Review of Indirect Effects of Biofuels

**Progress Bulletin 3
13 May 2008**

1. Previous Updates

This bulletin follows on from the updates of 8 April and 17 April. These can be viewed at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa/reportsandpublications/reviewoftheindirecteffectsofbiofuels.cfm>

2. Call for Evidence

Our study teams, in preparing their studies for the RFA have reported that many of the submissions were of great value. All contributions will be acknowledged in the final document and where study teams have made particular use of the submitted evidence, this will be referenced in the text.

3. Input Studies

The input studies which were commissioned by the RFA have been submitted in draft form and these are being collated and analysed. A meeting of the RFA Review Advisory Group is taking place on 16 May to discuss the findings of these reports and to start to consider whether some initial conclusions can be drawn out at this stage. The group will question the study teams about their findings and ask for further detail/clarification where necessary.

4. Expert Seminars

The first expert seminar took place in London on 28 April. This seminar focused on land use change and its implications. The seminar was well attended and included an opening statement by Professor Gallagher and presentations from Professor Peter Hazell of Imperial College, Dr Mark Avery from the RSPB, Dr Michael Obersteiner from IIASA (International Institute for Advanced Systems Analysis), Dr Jan-Erik Petersen from the European Environment Agency and a team from ENSUS led by Sir Rob Margetts. The agenda from this meeting and associated presentations will be posted on our website shortly.

A small team from the RFA travelled to SenterNovem in Utrecht to meet with recognised experts in a number of fields necessary for the review. The agenda from this meeting and associated presentations will be posted on our website shortly.

In addition, seminars are currently taking place in Sao Paulo in Brazil and at the University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign. Reports from these seminars will be made available as soon as possible.

5. Stakeholder Workshop

You will have received notification in the last update of the forthcoming stakeholder workshop on 22 May. If you would like to attend, please get in contact with the us as soon as possible on 0207 944 8454 or email enquiries@renewablefuelsagency.org. An agenda will be sent out on 15 May to all those who have confirmed their attendance.

6. Drafting the review

While preparatory work has taken place on the structure of the review, the main drafting work can only begin once the review advisory group has met and considered the findings of the studies and the evidence that has been collected as part of the review process. The stakeholder workshop, above, will provide further input into the review. A draft of the final report will be submitted to Ruth Kelly, Secretary of State for Transport, and Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, at the end of May. The Government will then begin a peer review process which includes a review of the draft report by some of the Government's Chief Scientific Advisors. At the end of this period, final drafting changes will be made to the report and then Professor Gallagher will submit it for publication at the end of June.