



Information System Better-iS

ZALF - Output

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Summary:

The International Farming Systems Association (IFSA) is aiming at the promotion of systems thinking and systems approach to agricultural development research from a variety of different disciplines. The international section is flanked by regional sub-organisations such as the IFSA – Europe Group. Bioenergy and biofuel research, as being more than other agricultural research areas part of systemic and interdisciplinary approaches, is fitting well into the research approaches highlighted by this informal organisation. ZALF and members of the Better-iS team therefore organised and realised two bioenergy related events in the IFSA workshops 2010 in Vienna, Austria and 2012 in Aarhus, Denmark to bring together researchers from other areas to discuss and learn from each other.

Title:

Better-iS Workshops at the 9th and the 10th IFSA Symposium. Titles of WS: “Sustainable bioenergy in developing countries: “Green” energy as key for development?” in Vienna (2010) and “Merging the unmergable?!? Pathways towards a sustainable co-production of food and bioenergy (in developing countries)” in Aarhus (2012).

Problem and Objective:

The establishment of a dense and durable network within the scientific community is essential for researchers to exchange ideas and preliminary project outcomes on a low-threshold level to potentially re-adjust aims and goals of research projects in accordance to the scientific forefront. Therefore, ZALF as part of Better-iS organised two respective networking events within the IFSA community to allow exchange on the one hand and to publish results on the other.

In total about thirteen researchers or project consortiums presented and published in this context. Most likely more results of Better-iS will be presented at the coming IFSA workshop in 2014 in Berlin, which will be jointly organised by ZALF and Humboldt University Berlin.

Method:

ZALF researchers have a long and established history within the European IFSA network, be it as presenters, organisers or board members. Beside a focus on farming system adaptation on climate change recent ZALF activities at IFSA contributed towards an establishment of a bioenergy segment within developing countries in the network. Therefore, Better-iS researchers proposed topic related workshops to the respective organisers (University of Natural Resources and Life Science (BOKU), Vienna, Austria in 2010 and Aarhus University, Denmark in 2012) whereby latter workshop was organised in cooperation with the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IFW). Following approval from the respective organisers, a “Call for papers” was submitted in the Better-iS network, including internal and external individuals as well as partner organisations of the project. It needs to be highlighted that a substantial part of the finally selected projects and researchers were unknown to Better-iS before and represented in this context the positive outcomes of such networking events. In a two step-approach, the applied researchers were first thematically selected by their submitted abstracts and secondly by the quality of their submitted papers. Latter ones were finally reviewed by the convenours and, if approved, submitted to the organisers of the IFSA meeting.

Results:

Apart from the networking outcomes for the participating researchers, conference papers were published by nearly all workshop stakeholders. In total, ten papers were published in 2010, one directly as outcome of the early Better-iS project (Hoffmann et al.), one from Wuppertal Institute as Better-iS partner (J. von Geibler et al.) and one from a gtz representative as facilitating agency for Better-iS (Schmitz). In the workshop in 2012 in Aarhus, three papers were published, one of them (Hoffmann et al.) as direct outcome of the Better-iS project.

A full list of conference papers from the WS in 2010 in Vienna is as follows:

WS 3.3 – Sustainable biofuels in developing countries: “Green” energy as key for development? convened by Harry Hoffmann and Götz Uckert

- 1) [*A. Aschaber: From biomass to biomass: Influential factors of biogas projects in rural areas of Burkina Faso. pp 1450-1460.*](#)
- 2) [*R. Herrmann and M. Brüntrup: Bioenergy value chains in Namibia: Institutional challenges for rural development and food security. pp. 1461-1472.*](#)
- 3) [*H.Hoffmann, G. Uckert, S. Sieber and A.Fasse: Development and adjustment of sustainability indicators for evaluation of*](#)

[outgrower schemes in bioenergy production: The case of Tanzania. pp. 2247-2256.](#)

4) [P. Grundmann: The meaning of institutions for biofuel production and farming systems development – The case of oil palm production in Indonesia. Pp. 1473-1482.](#)

5) [R.Renquist, S.Trovole, S.Shaw, S.Heubeck, C.McDowall and H.Kerckhoffs: New Zealand: Sustainable biofuel production using new crop cultivars and legumes in a closed-loop nitrogen supply cropping system for use on marginal land. pp. 1483-1492.](#)

6) [A. Mohr: The national program for production and use of biodiesel and its social components – Empirical findings from a field study in Ceará \(Northeast Brazil\). pp. 1493-1502.](#)

7) [P.Augusto Nasuelli and V. Vetrano: Biomasses for energy: Application of some synthetic-quantitative index. pp. 1503-1510.](#)

8) [J. von Geibler and K. Bienge: Success factors for standards and certification schemes for biofuels: “Sustainable palm oil” from a small-scale farmer and development perspective. pp. 1511-1520.](#)

9) [J. Schmitz: Biofuels for rural development: Lessons learnt and concepts in development cooperation. pp. 1521-1529.](#)

10) [H. Langeveld and J.Dixon: Development perspectives of the biobased economy: The need for a systems approach. Pp. 1530-1537.](#)

A full list of conference papers from the WS in 2012 in Aarhus is as follows:

WS 6.2. – Merging the unmergable ?!? Pathways towards a sustainable co-production of food and bioenergy (in developing countries) convened by Götz Uckert, Ruth Delzeit (IFW Kiel) and Harry Hoffmann

1) [A. Ehrensperger, O. Grimm and B.Kiteme: Spatial analysis of food insecurity and potential impacts of biofuels cultivation. A contribution to sustainable regional development and national biofuel policies in Kenya.](#)

2) [A. Ehrensperger, B.Kiteme, B.Portner and O.Grimm: Impact of Jatropha curcas on local food security in Kenya.](#)

3) [H.Hoffmann, G.Uckert, J.Rordorf and S.Sieber: Sunflower for horsepower – potentials of locally embedded biofuel production and consumption in Laela, Western Tanzania.](#)

Lessons learnt:

For practitioners:

As this event is solely designed for exchange between researchers, no direct contributions for practitioners in developing countries can be derived.

For research:

The exchange between researchers can not be overestimated – participation in workshops and conferences should therefore always be integral part of any research project. Participation in such events may lead to joint projects as well as cooperations as it is, e.g. the case for ZALF and DIE.

For policy implementation:

As this event is solely designed for exchange between researchers, no direct contributions for policy makers can be derived.

Participating institutions: International Food and Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Institute for Environmental Economics and World Trade IUW, World Agroforestry Centre ICRAF, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF e.V.), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa. Associated partners: SOKOINE University of Agriculture, Ministry of agriculture, food security and cooperatives Tanzania

