
Study tour of a delegation from the project "Sensitization for sustainable biomass production and trade in Ukraine" to the Federal Republic of Germany on behalf of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Duration of the trip

17.-23. March 2013

Participants

1. **Mr Sergii DUBOVYK**, Deputy Head of the State Energy Efficiency Agency;
2. **Mr Oleksandr LOZOVYTSKYI**, Head of the Department on Standardization and Measurement, Ministry of Agricultural Policy and Food;
3. **Mr Georgii GELETUKHA**, Head of the Board, Bioenergy Association of Ukraine (UABio); Director, Scientific Engineering Centre "Biomass" (SECB);
4. **Mr Rostyslav MARAIKIN**, Manager of the Project "Energy of Biomass", State Enterprise "GreenEnergO" of State Agency for Investment and National Projects of Ukraine;
5. **Mr Mykola KOBETS**, National Senior Policy Support Expert, UNIDO/GEF Project "Improving Energy Efficiency and Promoting Renewable Energy in the Agro-Food and Other Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Ukraine";
6. **Mr Ruslan MARUTOVSKYI**, National Expert on Sustainability Issues of Biofuels, UNIDO/GEF Project "Improving Energy Efficiency and Promoting Renewable Energy in the Agro-Food and Other Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Ukraine";
7. **Mr Mykola DATSENKO**, Head of the Department of Technical Development, NJSC "Agroleasing";
8. **Mr Taras GAGALYUK**, Director of the AgriSurvey Agency of the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club;
9. **Ms. Iuliia Ogarenko**, Research Fellow/Project Coordinator, Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting;
10. **Mr. Iurii Silvestrov**, Interpreter;
11. **Mrs. Johanna Binder**, GIZ Planning Officer, Agricultural Production and Resource Use.

Objectives of the trip:

- to provide a better understanding of the European Union policy in the spheres of sustainable biomass/biofuels production;
- to study the business strategies that enabled Germany to successfully develop use of renewable energy sources and to assist in maintaining competitive attractiveness for implementation of the cutting-edge energy technologies;
- to learn practices and challenges of biomass sustainability certification;
- to support skills sharing in the areas of sustainable biomass production and to establish long-term partnerships with enterprises and organizations in this area.

1. Important results

Within the GIZ project “*Sensitization for sustainable biomass production and trade in Ukraine*” representatives from the Ministry of Agricultural Policy and Food of Ukraine, advisors of the Government, representatives from business associations and research institutions as well as experts of the UNIDO project were invited to a delegation trip to Germany.

The trip provided a very good overview of practices in the field of biomass production for participants, German and EU Regulations for biomass sector and the challenges related to certification of biomass. In addition, further discussions and expert meetings provided good networking possibilities for the participants.

Sustainability certification of biomass is especially important for Ukraine because of two aspects. First of all, agricultural exports, in particular, raw feedstocks for biofuels are directly affected by the requirements of certification systems approved by the EU for the fulfillment of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and, secondly, Ukrainian government is interested in development of its own certification system for sustainable biomass production. Therefore, there is a considerable interest in exchange of knowledge and experiences in the field of sustainability certification of biomass.



The duration of the trip was one week starting in Berlin, going via Leipzig and Bonn to Straubing and Munich. The following institutions were visited:

1.1. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GMBH

(<http://www.giz.de/en/>)

Mr. Daniel Taras (GIZ) [gave an overview](#) of the work of GIZ and, in particular, GIZ's activities in Ukraine.

1.2. Federal Agency For renewable Resources (FNR)

(<http://www.fnr.de/>)

Mr. Stanev [gave an overview](#) on Germany's policies and strategies on biofuels as well as on Projects of the BMELV/FNR in Ukraine. He noted that renewables and bioenergy in particular have developed rapidly in the last 10 years due to generous support of the German government. However, further support of electricity production from renewable sources is problematic. At the moment, new schemes of support are being discussed.

1.3. Certification Body “GUTCERT”

(<http://www.gut-cert.de/>)

Mr. Peter Behm and Mr. Leonid Dvorkin gave an overview about their work in the field of biomass certification. Mr. Behm [presented](#) the perspective of Certification Body on sustainability certification of biomass. He concluded that sustainability certification of biofuels is just the first step to broader legislative regulation of sustainability issues. It is expected that sustainability requirements would be expanded to food and chemicals industry to manage the risks of biomass-based products (e.g. deforestation). Mr. Behm argues that too many certification schemes (13 approved by European Commission) undermine credibility of sustainability certification. In his opinion it would be better to have one unified certification scheme. He, thus, recommends for Ukraine not to develop its own new certification scheme but rather use already existing ones because national standards are not recognized automatically in the EU and approval process by the European Commission is very complicated and long-lasting. As Mr. Dvorkin is working as an auditor he [shared](#) his practical experience in certification per ISCC.

1.4. Association of German Biofuels Industry (VDB)

(<http://www.biokraftstoffverband.de/index.php/start.html>)

Since 2001, the German Biofuels Industry Association (VDB) has represented the interests of the German biofuels industry at the national and European levels. The VDB currently counts 26 regular members and three special members, which together account for about 80 percent of Germany's biofuels production capacity. Mr. Baumann gave an overview on German Biofuels market and policy from the industry's perspective.

1.5. German Biomass Research Centre (DBFZ)

<http://www.dbfz.de/web/en/the-dbfz/background.html>

The mission of the DBFZ is to support effective integration of biomass as a valuable resource for a sustainable energy supply in the context of applied scientific research - including technical, environmental, economic, social and energy economics issues along the entire chain of exploitation. Key research areas of DBFZ are bioenergy systems, biochemical conversion, thermo-chemical conversion and biorefineris. During the visit of Ukrainian delegation Mr. Stefan Schandera [presented](#) DBFZ and told about cooperation projects with Ukraine. Mr. Stefan Majer made a [presentation](#) on carbon footprint basics. In particular, he explained main aspects of carbon footprinting for liquid and solid biomass and presented examples of own calculations. He noted that default values specified in the RED represent a conservative average and calculation based on actual data often leads to better results.

1.6. Professor Uwe Lahl, Technical University Darmstadt

Prof. Lahl [explained](#) a very complex issue of the Indirect Land Use Change (iLUC), and reported on the ongoing discussions about biofuels in this context, the actual legal controversy in Brussels and possible effects for the bioenergy sector in Ukraine.

1.7. International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC)

Mr. Andreas Feige, Managing Director of the ISCC, [explained](#) main differences between ISCC DE and ISCC EU and also presented ISCCplus. He argues that considerable land use changes taking place are only partially caused by expansion of biofuels while the main driver is growing demand for food (meat) and feed. Mr. Feige believes that incorporating iLUC factor into GHG emissions calculation of biofuels will not solve the problem of land use change leading to loss of biodiversity and carbon

stocks. Since land use change (LUC) is covered in sustainability certification schemes iLUC issue will be automatically addressed if sustainability requirements are expanded to all markets, particularly, chemical/technical appliances and food and feed. He emphasized that proliferation of sustainability requirements is essential to secure GHG emissions reductions and elaborated this issue on the example of feed market. Mr. Feige is sure that sustainability requirements will spread to other markets. Voluntary schemes for chemicals and food market do exist already and it is just the question of time when mandatory requirements will be imposed at legislative level.

1.8. REDcert GmbH

As Managing Director, Mr. Jürgens gave [an overview](#) on the work of REDcert and the challenges of certification schemes.

1.9. German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)

http://www.ble.de/EN/00_Home/homepage_node.html

The BLE is the German market-regulating agency for the Common Market Organizations (CAP) for various products within the European Union. As the authority competent for the national tasks of control and certification related to the cultivation of renewable resources, the BLE controls sustainable cultivation, use and production of biomass. Dr. Nickel, Head of Division 411 Recognition and accreditation issues and bioenergy control procedures hold a [presentation](#) on Germany's implementation of the RED, gave an overview about the activities of the BLE and the Nabisy system.



1.10. Technology and Support Center at Straubing

<http://www.tfz.bayern.de/sonstiges/38581/>

The Technology and Support Centre (TFZ) is an institution of the Bavarian Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry (Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten). It was founded in 2002 out of several ministerial institutions doing basic research in the field of energetic use of biomass since 1973. The main goals of the TFZ and its 65 staff members are the support of the agricultural production, applied research on processing and utilization of renewable resources, development and testing of products and methods, and technology transfer through demonstration and education. In addition, the TFZ is responsible for financial support of projects in Bavaria. Dr. Remmele [presented](#) activities of the TFZ and gave an insight on liquid biofuels, lubricants and processed materials as well as their experience in certification. Besides that the exhibition area was visited.

1.11. Plant “Clariant” at Straubing

<http://www.clariant.com/corpnew/internet.nsf/directname/home2>

Clariant, the Swiss specialty chemicals company, today inaugurated Germany's biggest pilot plant for the production of climate-friendly cellulose ethanol from agricultural waste. Located in Straubing, Bavaria and supported by the Bavarian government and the Federal Ministry for Education and Research, the futuristic project will produce up to 1,000 tonnes of cellulose ethanol from around 4,500 tonnes of wheat straw based on the sunliquid® technology developed by Clariant. Studies show that Germany potentially has around 22 million tonnes of straw that could be used for energy production without compromising essential soil regeneration. This would be sufficient to cover around 25% of Germany's current gasoline requirements. Dr. Markus Rarbach [presented](#) sunliquid® technology allowing to produce cellulosic ethanol from agricultural residues.



2. Next steps

A final event for the project will be held in July, 2013, in Ukraine.

3. Links

More detailed information about the project as well as presentations and other materials available from this link:

http://www.ier.com.ua/en/biomass_project/