

IEA Bioenergy Task 39
Commercializing Conventional and Advanced Transport Biofuels from Biomass
and Other Renewable Feedstocks

IEA Bioenergy Task 39 Virtual Business Meeting
4.00-6.30PM CET, 23 June 2020

Draft Meeting Minutes and Agenda

Attendance: Adrian O’Connell, Alex Macleod, Cecilia Higa Gonzales Morilla, Dina Bacovsky, Don O’Connor, Duncan Akporiaye, Franziska Müller-Langer, Glaucia Mendes Souza, Henning Jorgenson, Jack Saddler, Jianping Su, Jim McMillan, Leif Jönsson, Mahmood Ebadian, Nicolae Scarlat, Nicolaus Dahmen, Pablo Silva Ortiz, Paul Sinnige, Rubens Maciel Filho, Timo Gerlagh, Tomas Ekblom, Tor Ivan Simonsen, Sune Tjalfe Thomsen, Susan van Dyk, Ravi P. Gupta, Stephen Dooley

Regrets

Kyu-Young Kang, Jin Suk Lee, Johan van Doesum, Paul Bennett, Michael Persson, Seonghun Park, Shiro Saka, Steve Rogers, Yuta (“Shibby”) Shibahara

The second Task 39 business meeting of 2020 was held virtually, using Zoom. A majority of country members were able to attend despite different time zones. The meeting’s main purpose was for the various project leaders to present progress updates and describe next steps and provide a forum for Task 39 members to share questions, thoughts and ideas regarding the scope, objectives and methodology of each project as well as its budget allocation.

The group was excited that India’s newly appointed country representative, Ravi P. Gupta (Ravi), General Manager of Bioenergy Research Centre at the Indian Oil Corporation was able to join the meeting (despite the problematic time difference). Jim McMillan (Jim M.) welcomed Ravi and thanked him/India for joining Task 39.

The meeting was recorded and a copy will be shared with all Task members including our Asian and Australasian colleagues (Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand). If needed, a shorter, follow-up meeting will be held with these colleagues (and any others who would like to join) once they have reviewed the recording to discuss outstanding questions and assess their interest in contributing to the various projects.

1. Welcome and introduction

Jim McMillan (Jim M.) called the meeting to order at 16:00 CET (7:00 PST), welcoming Task 39 members to the second virtual Task 39 business meeting of 2020. Jim M. thanked everyone for joining the meeting, reviewed the meeting agenda and provided updates on Task 39 activities since our last virtual meeting in April 2020. This included Task newsletter #54 (profiling Germany), the Task’s recent publications and information dissemination activities (e.g. June 2020 IEA Bioenergy Newsletter, Task 39 members (Saddler & Ebadian) participation in the Adam Brown et al. IEA Bioenergy Webinar, “Advanced Biofuels - Potential for Cost Reduction”, etc).

Jim M. provided brief updates/summaries on the progress made on each project, including the status of allocated budget and the transfer of funds to the project leader(s) who had already sent in invoices. Regarding the proposed Task 39 meeting in Germany in November, Jim and Jack Saddler (Jack) suggested that, due to the travel restrictions that currently impact most of our Task 39 members (if not all), it is difficult to make firm decision at this time. The group and host (Franziska Müller-Langer (Franziska)) agreed we should revisit this decision in early September. Franziska indicated that DBFZ still reserved rooms to host Task 39 as well as for the joint meeting with Task 44 for an in-person meeting in Germany, Leipzig, 25-27 November, 2020.

The next newsletter will profile Ireland's biofuel development and deployment. Stephen Dooley (Stephen) has been in contact with Mahmood Ebadian (Mahmood) to prepare the feature article by mid-August.

Regarding budgets, Jim described the Task 39 annual budget, both including/excluding India, and briefly reviewed the budget allocation spreadsheet. Dina Bacovsky (Dina) was concerned that, with the current budget allocation, Task 39 may not be able to fund the proposed projects as the current budget allocation exceeds the total Task 39 budget. Jack responded that, based on past experience, there are several ways in which we should meet the proposed budget: 1) some of the projects will likely not complete their proposed deliverables (thus, unused funds can be assigned to other projects); 2) we will probably have lower than planned travel/meeting expenses this year (from which unspent funds could be assigned to the project(s); 3) several of the project leaders have been able to successfully "leverage" the allocated Task 39 budget from other resources (e.g., the marine biofuel report). He suggested that this is one of the reasons why Task 39 has been effective in using its limited resources to fund so many projects resulting in well received reports.

Franziska asked about transparency on budget allocation per task/project and involved team members and/or externals like other TCP Bioenergy Tasks do. Moreover, she also asked about the potentially remaining budget from the past triennium as indicated during the meeting in Ispra in 05/2020.

Action item:

Task leadership will provide an updated budget allocation spreadsheet before the end of this year. It will detail the budget spent so far (through 2020) for each project and the budget assigned to each project in 2021 and update the forecast amount of unassigned (or over-assigned!) Task budget for this 2019-2021 triennium. Moreover, budget allocation per task/project and involved team members and/or external consultants will be included.

2. Project update presentations

The current and "developing" projects, were presented by each project leader(s) with nine presentations in total given by each project team. A copy of the presentation slides and the recording of the virtual meeting are available at <http://task39.ieabioenergy.com/business-meetings/>.

The presentations summarised each project, progress made so far and next steps. (To avoid repeating the content of presentations, Task 39 members are encouraged to review the presentations on the members-only part of the website).

2.1. Sustainability assessment of biofuel pathways to identify key metrics beyond GHG reduction, spanning both feedstocks and conversion technologies (D. O'Connor and Adrian O'Connell)

Questions/Comments:

Jim M suggested slightly modifying the project title as the focus appears to on LCA quality (integrity of data, accuracy of default values) rather than on identifying other key LCA metrics beyond GHG reduction. He also mentioned that this project is a great example of leverage as it is tied in with the LCA activities of the European Commission.

(Franziska to the project team: Maybe results of this EU Project may help as well: <http://www.star-probio.eu/research/>)

2.2. Update on biofuels in marine shipping report/Issues affecting utilisation of advanced biofuels in the marine sector (Henning Jorgenson, Sune Tjalfe Thomsen, Steve Rogers and Stephen Dooley)

Henning Jørgensen (Henning) mentioned that, effective August 1st, he will start a new position as Senior Scientific Manager at the Novo Nordisk Foundation. Thus, he will have to step out of Task 39 and Task 42 involvement. Sune T. Thomsen (Sune) will become the official Danish NTL in Task 39. Regarding the Marine Fuels Report, Sune will be coordinating this work assisted by Tor Ivan Simonsen (Tor).

Henning also mentioned that he and his team would still be happy to host Task 39 in Denmark in April, 2021.

Questions/Comments:

Jim M.: This project is another great example of leverage as the project team has been able to secure a matching grant.

(Franziska: There is a federal program in Germany on adapting LNG for marine:

<https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2019/066-technology-update-clean-ships-future.html>)

2.3. Successes and lessons learned for conventional/advanced biofuels deployment (Franziska Müller-Langer and Tomas Ekbom)

Questions/Comments:

Tomas Ekbom (Tomas) asked why Task 39 embargoes new project reports for a period of 3-6 months as some of the reports need to be publically available ASAP. Jack and Jim M. indicated that, previously, the Task 39 group felt that Task membership needed some sort obvious benefits that could be reported to their respective governments. Having a “grace period” where reports were only available to Task members was seen as one way to help justify membership. The 3-6 months period was thought to be enough time for members’ to have privileged access to a specific report.

Alex Macleod (Alex) mentioned that from an ExCo perspective, the issue of embargo is a balancing act between the final reports needing to be available publically in a timely manner while the “funders” of the project justifiably want some time to benefit from a report. It was suggested that three months might be acceptable but if it gets longer, the information in the report could get outdated.

Franziska suggested that perhaps instead of referring to this as an “embargo period”, we could rather refer to it "Draft Version undergoing review within T39".

Tomas suggested that Task 39 publish the executive summary without a delay while the full report is limited to the Task 39 group for a short time (3-6 months?).

Dina commented that she often finds it quite annoying that when – after a long period of internal review through Task 39 members – a report is finally published she can still not disseminate it publicly within her country because it is embargoed.

There was general consent that while for technical reports an embargo might be useful, reports aiming to influence policies should be published as quickly as possible.

Action item:

Jim M. suggested that all the above options should be considered. It was agreed that, for future projects, Task 39’s country members will decide on a project-by-project basis whether there should be none or a specified “grace period” prior to public release. This would be good topic to discuss at the face-to-face meeting in Germany.

2.4. Update on the implementation Agendas report (compare-and-contrast of biofuels policies) (Mahmood Ebadian)

Action item:

Mahmood will send a copy of the “India Chapter” of the 2018-2019 implementation agenda report, and the revised questionnaire, to Ravi for his review and comments.

2.5. Update on Biofuels Demonstration Plants website (Dina Bacovsky)

Questions/Comments:

Jim M.: With India participating in Task 39, we should be able to improve the Demonstration Plants database and website by updating the list of ongoing pilot and demonstration plants in India and other parts of Asia.

Tomas: Is biomethane and hydrogen for transport included in the database? Dina: Biomethane from gasification is included in the database but biomethane from upgrading biogas and anaerobic digestion is not. There too many small and medium size operations. In addition, Task 37 has a database related to biomethane and biogas from anaerobic digestion; they also maintain a list of biogas upgrading plants within Europe.

Action item:

Dina mentioned she will contact Task 37 to assess whether they would be interested in sharing their biomethane and biogas plants, to be included in Task 39 database.

2.6. Assess biofuels production and use status in non-IEA countries/emerging economies (Glaucia Mendes Souza and Rubens Maciel Filho)

Action item:

Glaucia Mendes Souza (Glaucia) and Rubens Maciel Filho (Ruben) will hire on a Postdoctoral Fellow for this project, to assist Pablo Silva Ortiz (Pablo). Glaucia asked for help in advertising/recruiting for this job posting. A copy of the job posting will be included in the next Task newsletter.

Jack: Would it be possible to engage India in this project? Rubens: Having India involved would be great! The project team will be in touch with Ravi.

2.7. Review existing/proposed certifications used for oleochemical- and lignocellulosic-based biofuels supply chains; identify certification scheme improvement opportunities (Paul Sinnige and Timo Gerlagh)

Questions/Comments:

The project team IS working on better defining the scope of this project. Timo Gerlagh (Timo) proposed that the project first assess the impact of REDII on the chain of custody. It is likely that the scope of this proposed project can be better defined after the assessment protocol for voluntary schemes in REDII has been published later this year. The project will begin in early 2021 and a draft report should be available in the Task 39 business meeting in late 2021.

2.8. Update of biojet fuel/SAF, decarbonization of the aviation sector (Susan van Dyk, Jianping Su and Jack Saddler)

Questions/Comments:

Franziska: Recently published summary paper on the DEMO-SPK project on Multiblend JET A-1 demo at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/ceat.202000024>.

Tomas: <https://bioenergyinternational.com/biofuels-oils/norsk-e-fuel-reveals-plans-for-europes-first-commercial-aviation-e-fuel-plant?>

Paul Sinnige (Paul): In the Netherlands, the government announced a future obligation for renewable fuels in aviation.

Franziska: Sent another relevant report regarding PTG-HEFA, <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-3417/9/19/4047>

Jack: This is another good example of getting leverage from other organizations to support Task 39 projects. (Boeing has been supporting the biojet work).

Yuta Shibahara (Shibby), Japanese representative in Task 39 shared a YouTube video that showed a summary of Japanese national project, "Bio Jet Fuel pilot plant = BTL(FT) and Micro Algae" by New Energy and Industrial Technology Development (NEDO). This video was played after Susan van Dyk (Susan)'s presentation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mdck7tRNf-8> (Full ver. 3 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-uMdIEJSs4> (Trailer-Reverse Production 30 sec)

3. Concluding remarks and wrap up

Glaucia invited Task 39 country members to attend the first BIOEN Research Webinar. The theme is Biomass and Sustainability and she and Rubens will moderate the webinar. Among highlights, Glaucia will speak about the bioenergy research status in Brazil, and Steve Long (from US, working with BioFuture Platform and Embrapa) will also present. See: <http://www.fapesp.br/14294>

Glaucia also mentioned that Brazil still plans to hold the BBEST meeting Nov 30-Dec 2, 2020. Brazil will use the "IEA Bioenergy platform" to also hold the BBEST meeting virtually.

If there are no travel restrictions, attendees can travel and attend the meeting in person. They are still inviting speakers. They would like to invite a representative from Task 39. Jim M. mentioned that he will get back to Glaucia about the possibility of having a representative from Task 39 as a speaker.

Ravi briefly explained that Indian Oil is now constructing its first commercial 2G ethanol plant which is planned to be commissioned next year, and their R&D centre is also developing a demonstration 2G ethanol plant based on its own technology with a production capacity of 10 tonne/day.

Jim M. concluded the meeting at 10 am PST (7pm CET).

A copy of the meeting agenda, which was followed, is provided on the next page.



IEA Bioenergy

Technology Collaboration Programme



Tuesday, 4.00-6.30PM CET, 23 June 2020

15 minutes	General Introduction; Update on Task 39 projects and tentative budget allocation (Jim McMillan and Jack Saddler)
15 minutes	Sustainability assessment of biofuel pathways to identify key metrics beyond GHG reduction, spanning both feedstocks and conversion technologies (D. O'Connor and Adrian O'Connell)
15 minutes	Update on biofuels in marine shipping report/Issues affecting utilisation of advanced biofuels in the marine sector (Henning Jorgenson, Sune Tjalfe Thomsen, Steve Rogers and Stephen Dooley)
15 minutes	Assess successes and lessons learned for conventional/advanced biofuels deployment (Franziska Müller-Langer and Tomas Ekbom)
15 minutes	Update on the implementation Agendas report (compare-and-contrast of biofuels policies) (Mahmood Ebadian)
15 minutes	Update on Biofuels Demonstration Plants website (Dina Bacovsky)
15 minutes	Assess biofuels production and use status in non-IEA countries/emerging economies (Glaucia Mendes Souza)
10 minutes	Review existing/proposed certifications used for oleochemical- and lignocellulosic-based biofuels supply chains; identify certification scheme improvement opportunities (Paul Sinnige and Timo Gerlagh)
10 minutes	Update of biojet fuel/SAF, decarbonization of the aviation sector (Susan van Dyk, Jianping Su and Jack Saddler)
5 minutes	Update of the drop-in biofuels report (Jack Saddler, Jianping Su and Susan van Dyk)
15 minutes	General discussion
5 min	Concluding remarks and wrap up (Jim McMillan and Jack Saddler)