



Photos: Kurt Damm

Sustainability certificates for agroenergy

Guardrail or lubricant for trade with renewable energy resources?

Conference | 4th November 2008 | Berlin

BACKGROUND

While there is a basic agreement regarding environmental and social risks of the expanding trade with biomass as energy, opinions on the necessary regulation of this market broadly differ. Systems of certification for agroenergy or agofuels brought forward by governments and some civil society initiatives are a special cause for conflict.

The different perspectives and experiences with certification as an instrument of trade policy will be discussed by representatives and participants from the North and the South. It is our aim to debate the scope and the limitations of this instrument with regards to the regulation of the agroenergy market and to reflect the respective lobby-work of civil society groups in the North and the South.

DATE + VENUE

The conference will take place on Tuesday, **November 4, 2008 from 13.30hrs to 19.00hrs.**

The conference venue is the Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Haus (Kirchsaal), Ziegelstrasse 30, 10117 Berlin [<http://www.hotel-dietrich-bonhoeffer.de>].

It is located near the train station (and former checkpoint) Friedrichstraße. The venue is just a 5 minutes walk away from the tube station Oranienburger Tor (subway line U6) or the city train (S-Bahn) station Oranienburger Strasse (city train lines S1, S2, S25).

Conference languages will be English and German. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

REGISTRATION + INFORMATION

If you want to participate in the conference please register by emailing to info@fdcl.org no later than **October 25, 2008**. Attending the conference is free of charge.

Further information regarding the conference you will find on the following website of the FDCL: <http://fdcl.org/index.php?id=aktuelles>.

THE CONFERENCE IS ORGANIZED BY:





CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

- 13.30 – 13.45 hrs** Welcome and introduction to the conference programme
Jan Dunkhorst (FDCL – Berlin/Germany)
- 13.45 – 14.30 hrs** What do certification systems and seal initiatives accomplish?
Moderator: *Dr Bernhard Walter (Brot für die Welt – Stuttgart/Germany)*
- Environmental and social seals: Instruments for sustainability?
Veerle Dossche (FERN – London/Great Britain)
- The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) – Did the FSC pass the practical test or is it on the wrong track?
Chris Lang (World Rainforest Movement – Frankfurt a. Main/Germany)
- Questions+Discussion
- 14.30 – 15.00 hrs** Coffee Break (refreshments and snacks will be served)
- 15.00 – 16.15 hrs** Social and environmental impacts of agroenergy production – implications for a political regulation
Moderator: *Kirsten Bredenbeck (KoBra – Freiburg/Germany)*
- Brazil *Camila Moreno (Terra de Direitos – Curitiba/Brazil)*
- Tanzania *Abdallah Mkindi (Envirocare – Daressalam/Tanzania)*
- Indonesia *Norman Jiwan (SAWIT Watch – Bogor/Borneo-Indonesia)*
- Questions+Discussion
- 16.15 – 17.15 hrs** Private and public certification systems and seal initiatives
Moderator: *Peter Gerhardt (Robin Wood – Hamburg/Germany)*
- The private seal initiatives: Soya, palmoil, sugar, biofuels
Stella Semino (Grupo Reflexión Rural – Argentina)
- The drafts for certification systems of the European Union and civil society criticism
Deepak Rughani (Biofuelwatch – London/Great Britain)
- Questions+Discussion
- 17.15 – 17.30 hrs** Coffee Break
- 17.30 – 19.00 hrs** On the way to a joint strategy? – Open final discussion
Moderator: *Wolfgang Hees (Caritas international – Freiburg/Germany)*
- "Wrap-up" session with short statements by:
Camila Moreno (Terra de Direitos – Curitiba/Brasilien)
Thomas Fritz (FDCL – Berlin/Germany)
- 19.00 hrs (appr.)** End of the conference