

The United Nations Foundation International Bioenergy Initiative

In 2005, the United Nations Foundation (UN Foundation) launched the International Bioenergy Initiative. The Bioenergy Initiative integrates in-country resources and international markets to create economic opportunities for rural communities and developing nations. This Initiative powerfully identifies the nexus of energy and development and offers compelling strategies for enhanced rural incomes, improved energy access, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Access to clean and affordable energy is vital to the achievement of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of poverty reduction and sustainable development. High oil prices disproportionately affect developing countries; therefore displacing imported oil with renewable biofuels holds great potential for leveraging scarce financial resources.

To build institutional support for bioenergy development, the Initiative is working on:

- Coalition building: Working with UN agencies and NGO partners to develop cross-collaboration integrated approaches on bioenergy activities;
- Best practices: Identifying UN agency and international organization bioenergy "start-up" projects where UN Foundation investment and collaboration could potentially generate large-scale results in a short period; and
- Partnerships: Developing public-private partnerships to support the UN, other international organizations, and advance the UN Foundation International Bioenergy Initiative.

To facilitate a policy dialogue, the Initiative is working with UN agencies, governments, the private sector, and civil society to develop and promote:

- Outreach activities: Bringing bioenergy into discussions that advance sustainable development and improved access to modern energy services in the developing world;
- Trade opportunities: Programs, workshops and conferences that highlight the need for eliminating trade barriers to permit developing and developed countries to engage in trade on biofuels and bioenergy technologies;
 - Organize policy discussions with decision makers and experts to help shape progressive international policies that integrate bioenergy as a core element of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change; and
 - Develop recommendations, in concert with international and national strategies, to generate discussion on guidelines and criteria for international cooperation as part of the United Nation's efforts to advance the MDGs and address other environmental issues.

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The International Bioenergy Initiative is part of a broader UN Foundation Climate and Energy Initiative that works to lead the world's transition toward a climate-friendly energy economy.

The UN Foundation builds and implements public-private partnerships to address the world's most pressing problems, and broadens support for the UN through advocacy and public outreach.