



Food Security in South Africa: We need food, not Biofuel

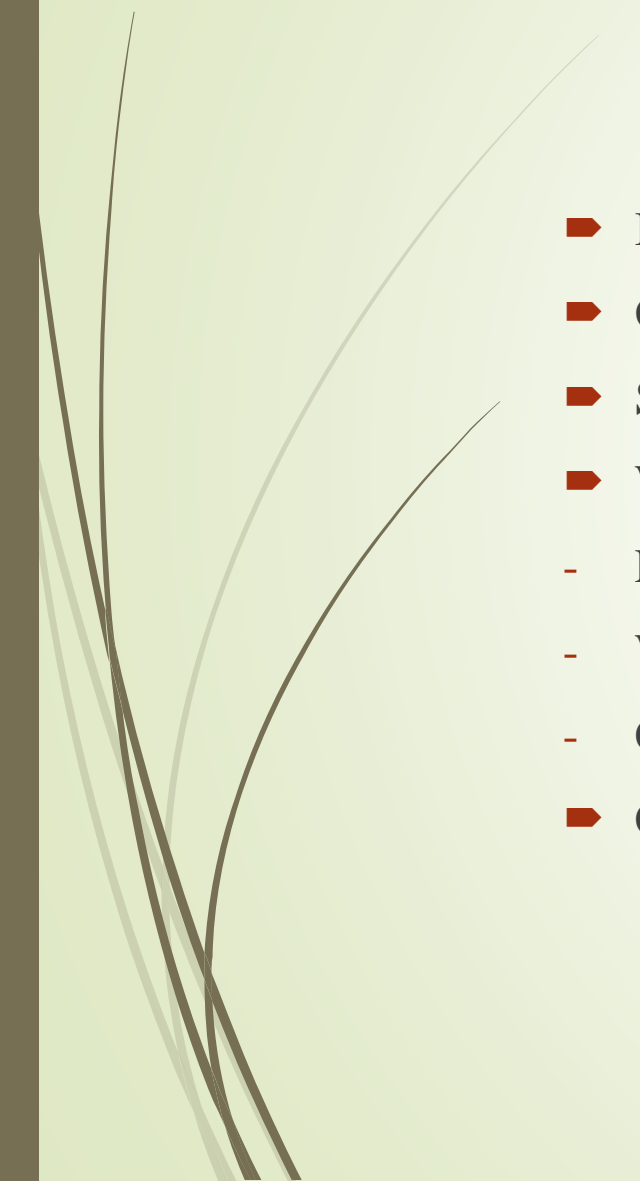
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Presentation Outlined

- Introduction
 - Global strategy on Sustainable biofuel production
 - South African legal regime
 - We need food, not Biofuel
 - Land issues
 - Water
 - Crops
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General observation on biofuel production

- ▶ First generation biofuel : bioethanol and biodiesel from food crop as substitute to fossil fuel
- ▶ Development of policy to encourage biofuel production
- ▶ 2007 : Biofuel potential became subject to claims and counterclaims
 - Environmental, socio economic: biodiversity loss, land use change, food insecurity
 - Biofuel benefits overemphasized
- ▶ Food security impacts more emblematic



Global strategy on sustainable biofuel production

- ▶ Effective governance:
 - Capable to manage, oversee biofuel activities to ensure that biofuel can provide a net benefit on the economy, environment, and human well-being
 - To intervene in case of unacceptable impacts
- ▶ Verification or certification systems
 - to ensure that minimum environmental and socioeconomic standards are met by producers
 - Create a new linkage between policy agenda in agricul., industry, environment, and energy
 - Strong lobby for strict sustainability regime



Implementation of sustainable strategy at the international Level

- ▶ Sustainable biofuel production at the international level:
 - Various forums have emerged: Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels, Roundtable on Sustainable palm Oil, roundtable on Responsible soy
 - implemented with national, regional institutional support
 - The EU-RED (2009) enforced by voluntary private schemes



Implementation of sustainable strategy at the national level

Many challenges

Lack of resources , institutional dysfunction:

- ▶ How to allocate differentiated responsibilities because of the complex nature of biofuel linkage with many sectors : agriculture, energy, transport, environment

However there is a need to better understand biofuel impacts

- ▶ Compile empirical data to inform the development of sustainable strategy
- ▶ Efforts from public and private actors are required



The SA Legal regime on biofuel

- To achieve a market penetration target of 2 % of liquid fuel in the transport sector
- Pending deadline of 1 October 2015 for mandatory blending of biofuel with petroleum (40% exemption levy for ethanol and 100% biodiesel)
- The minister of energy prompted to published the position Paper in term of the National Energy Act 34 of 2008
- This constitutes an attempt at fostering the commercial production of biofuel

However the development of biofuel industry has remained embryonic possibly due to persistent views that biofuel projects would adversely affect food security, land prices and redistribution.



SA biofuel policy and sustainable biofuel production

➤ Lands issues:

- under-utilized lands in homeland
- 1.4 % of the 14% national arable land to be used

land is available for biofuel in many African countries, including SA

The problem is how land is managed, skill, inequalities

- Land is used as strategy to maintain social inequality not to increase food production
- Land degradation : low land productivity, insecurity of land ownership, lack of long term investment (case of Zambia)



SA biofuel policy and sustainable strategy for biofuel production

► Water issues:

Disturbed monsoon, less rainfall, demand for domestic use, decline of ground water

- In SA Biofuel will find their water from existing allocation (Department of water Affairs)
- Crops selected (non food crops :sugarcane & jatropha) also classified as dryland crops
- Use of sustainable strategy: water allocation reform



Biofuel and food security



- No indication of a potential conflict between biofuel and land, water or food crops
- Food insecurity may be induced by poverty due to the lack or limited access to market (rural farmers, and poor rural household)
- SADC reports found that lack or limited access to market for rural farmer as a key barrier for food security and agricultural development :
 - High cost for transportation
 - Lack of competition between local and urban farmers
- Biofuel constitute an opportunity and would encourage farmers to diversify their production, and produce own fuel
- Biofuel production in homeland is for agricultural development and access to market



Conclusion

- ▶ If food security may be defined as when “all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic **access** to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”:
- ▶ Incentives to produce whether food or biofuel is the one to determine which end-product offer greater value and raises the incomes of rural farmers who can then afford greater access to food
- ▶ Agricultural commodities that can be traded as cash crops may reduce poverty, enhance food security, promote agricultural growth
- ▶ Multifunctional agricultural production system provides both food and non-food
- ▶ Food shortage is more related to poor distribution of some resources such as land, lack of job, and disposal incomes to afford food
- ▶ Family planning may improve food security