

Land and Food Crops Production for Automobile: What Lessons for the SADC Region

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Presentation Outlined

- Land related concerns
- Food related concerns
- Water resources concerns
- Biofuels policies worldwide as respond to the concerns
- Stage of Biofuel policies in SADC
- Concerns from existing SADC policies
- Conclusion

Biofuel Potentials

- In 2009 the SADC secretariat defined the role of biofuel in the regional harmonization and collaboration
- It was optimistic that biofuel will resolve energy insecurity from world petroleum prices and unstable supply by oil producers.
- Stimulate rural development, create jobs, and save foreign exchange

Biofuels and its unfolding risks

- Increase GHG emission by taking away additional land into energy,
- Strain water resources
- Damage ecosystems with harmful agriculture

Land versus Biofuel production

- The shortage of productive cropland in developed countries;
- Availability of suitable land in developing countries;
- Direct and indirect land use changes;
- Access to land, and land titling



Crops for food versus Crops for biofuel

- The competition between the production of crops for biofuel and crops for food
- Competition between suitable land on which to produce food and land to produce biofuels crops.
- Competition over water, fertilizer may constrain food availability



Water management and biofuels production

- Water quantity and quality
- Water management

- Free access and exclusive control over water sources lead to incorrect use (pollution , and waste) by Landowners

- Reduction of the availability and quality of water for domestic use,

- In agriculture, water inadequacy may affect food crops that require more irrigation.

- Potential conflicts for water management between different users or biofuels industries.

Sustainable Biofuels Production

- Growing national pro biofuels policies
- Establishment of Regional frameworks
- Establishment of reporting and control mechanisms:
- Standards
- Certification schemes.
- Mandatory targets and Action plans

The aims of these policies are to ensure that biofuel is environmentally, socially, and economically produced, but also to facilitate market and trade development



Analysis of the SADC Biofuels framework

- The SADC biofuel framework is described as a set of broad general recommendations;
- Serves as guidelines for national biofuel production to adhere to environmental, economic and social principles;
- Requires national legislative implementation and adaptation;
- It requires member states to incorporate biofuel sustainable policies in national strategy instruments, such as the poverty reduction strategy, food security strategy, budget planning, and energy policy.

Shortcomings of the regional biofuel framework

- SADC framework lack specific plans or strategies to coordinate national isolated biofuels policies,
- The framework is voluntary and therefore lacks any binding force to ensure compliance by member states,
- > It lacks an enforcement mechanism and institutional frameworks,

- Being incorporated into national strategies documents such approach has been found to be inefficient as there is no indication as to whether and how member states are complying with minimum environmental or social requirements,
- Isolated or individual policies may induce difference sustainability within the region and therefore constrain the market and trade of SADC member states biofuel product.

National implementation of the SADC framework and challenges

- The complex connection of biofuel with diverse issues such as energy, agriculture, industry, environment, land and natural resources, are among the challenges as *All these impediments call for different responsibilities and contributions at different level and capacities*
- Land tenure issues and specific conditions related to crops selection
- Differences in biofuel priorities

- Many national energy policies do not contain specific strategies for biofuels sector;
- National policies lack action plans or explicit priorities as an indication of the policy;

Concluding remarks

- Develop specific and mandatory regional frameworks (binding instrument);
- Develop a regional sustainability control and reporting mechanisms such as standards and certification schemes to ensure the implementation of biofuel policies;
- Avoid proliferation of polices that may restrict international trade and market.