



## RSB Newsletter

October 2014

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### RSB Highlights

#### Updates from RSB's Annual General Assembly



*Helena Chum speaking at General Assembly in Brazil.  
Photo Credit: IISD*

The 2nd RSB General Assembly was held in São Paulo on September 23, 2014. The first RSB Assembly held outside of Europe marked an important evolution for the organization, and provided a forum to showcase current developments and future plans for RSB and its members. Some highlights include:

- Approval of new smallholder standard which aims to provide small producers with additional flexibility in the compliance process through a stepwise approach.
- Approval of RSB's 2013 Annual Report.
- Approval of RSB's Monitoring and Evaluation system framework.
- Representatives from Brazil's Ministry of Agrarian Development, Amyris, GOL Airlines, and Amigos da Terra Brasil expressed important perspectives and experiences with the standard.

The afternoon open session gathered over 40 participants and ended with a reception where participants made new connections, rekindled old ones and networked with industry, government and NGOs interested in sustainable biofuel and other bio-products from Brazil. [Download summary report here.](#)

## New Members

Welcome to our newest members of the RSB family!

### 1. Civil Society Organisations Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Environment in East Africa (CISONET)

Uganda  
Chamber 5

### 2. European Bioplastics

Belgium  
Chamber 2

### 3. Moringa Group

Southern Africa  
Chamber 5

## Call for Public Comments

There are no calls for public comments at this time.

Please check our website for updates or [sign up here](#) to be notified via email for future calls for public comments.

## RSB Certified Operators

For a complete list of RSB certified operators, [click here](#).



*Mr. André Machado, Coordinator Biofuels DGRAV- Family Farming Secretariat speaking at General Assembly open session*

*Photo Credit: IISD*

## Meet Our New Chamber Director and Delegates

**Salvador Feranil**, a founding member and Managing Director for Mindanao at the Philippine Network of Rural Development Institutes (PhilNet-RDI), has been elected to the Board of Directors by the General Assembly.



**Abubakar L. Datun**, based in Tacurong City, Philippines and current Executive Director of the Rural Development Institute of Sultan Kudarat (RDISK), Inc. has been elected as a delegate for Chamber 5 (rural development organizations).

**Jayant Sarnaik** based in Pune, Maharashtra, India and founder member and joint director of the Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF), a conservation NGO, was elected as a delegate for Chamber 6 (environmental NGOs).



**Laxman Neupane**, Manager for Centre for Empowerment and Development (CED) Nepal based in Bhaisepati, Lalitpur, Nepal,

was elected as a delegate for Chamber 5.

Congratulations to Salvador, Abubakar, Jayant and Laxman!

Read more about our [Board of Directors](#) and [Assembly of Delegates](#).

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### Upcoming Auditor Training



*Participants at a recent Auditor Training in August.  
Photo Credit: Liviu Amariei*

RSB training courses are open to all auditors, consultants, biomaterial producers, biomaterial users and others interested in obtaining a deeper understanding of the RSB requirements. **The next training will be held 1-3 December 2014 in Miami, Florida, USA.** Registration closes November 8th, because there is an online component that must be completed prior to the face-to-face component in Miami. Contact [Liviu Amariei](#) to register. [Download the flyer](#).

The European course will likely be held in mid-January 2015 in Italy. The exact dates and location are still to be determined and will be released shortly. Stay tuned!

## Smallholder Update

### Brazil

Field activities of the Macauba project in Montes Claros, Brazil, have started. An RSB introductory webinar was held in mid-October with Federal University of Minas Gerais' (UFMG) students and volunteers participating in the project. Field assessment for identifying the eligible smallholders started last week. A second smallholder project in Rio Grande do Sul region is currently being identified. Stay tuned for more information on the second project.

### South Africa

RSB's South Africa team participated on October 22nd with other partners in a stakeholder meeting of Sunchem's Solaris energy tobacco project in Marble Hall, Limpopo province. The project is currently undergoing a screening exercise for RSB certification. RSB's project partner South African Airlines (SAA) will be hosting a media tour in the first week of December for promoting the successful Solaris project in the local and international media. RSB's Executive Director Rolf Hogan will join in the event. The media tour will feature in our next newsletter!



*Solaris energy tobacco seedling in South Africa. Photo Credit: Sunchem*

## Standard Update

**1. Revision of CBs/Auditors Requirements**  
As part of its streamlining effort to simplify the RSB certification system and make it more user-friendly, the RSB Secretariat is currently improving the procedure describing the requirements for Certification Bodies and Auditors.

**2. EU RED Version of Standard for Traceability of Certified Material (Chain of Custody)**  
After the approval of the global version of the RSB Standard for Traceability, the Secretariat is currently working on the EU RED version.

**3. ISEAL Alliance Assurance Code**  
RSB has conducted a self-assessment against the ISEAL Assurance code. RSB found that it complies with most of the code and has a clear path forward for full compliance by 2016. [Download the report here.](#)



**4. GHG Changes**  
Recent regulation passed in Germany introduces incentivisation of road transport biofuels according to their greenhouse gas savings from 2015. The details have yet to be published, but RSB has made the following changes, on a temporary basis for the next two years, to ensure that RSB certified Participating Operators are ready for the changes.

- Greenhouse Gas intensities and savings can be calculated using the ENZO2 methodology, which has been approved by the German government.
- Default values for greenhouse gas savings can also be used as long as the default saving is at least 55%.

The barrier of 50% greenhouse gas savings to achieve RSB certification has not changed. Further measures may be introduced as the operational details are published.

## RSB in the News

### Lufthansa Mentions Amyris' RSB Certification

Amyris's RSB certification was mentioned in several recent articles about Lufthansa conducting its first European scheduled flight using sugar-based biofuel. [Read more...](#)

### GOL Airlines Flies on Amyris Fuel

Amyris's RSB certification was also mentioned in a recent article about GOL airlines in Brazil flying on Amyris' biofuel. [Read more...](#)

### Agrisoma Receives Financing for Non-Food Carinata

Several media outlets covered Agrisoma's recent announcement of their first closing of Series A financing round and noted that its non-food biofuel crop, called Resonance Carinata, has been RSB certified. [Read more...](#)

## RSB at Recent Events



- In September, Barbara Bramble, Rolf Hogan and Aurea Nardelli spoke at the [World Bio Markets \(WBM\) Brazil](#), which began the day after our RSB General Assembly meetings in Sao, Paulo. Aurea moderated a panel featuring Barbara, GOL Airlines and the Rio 2016 Olympics Sustainability Program that discussed the market for certified biomaterials and what sustainability means in the biomaterial world. Rolf Hogan spoke on a panel about accessing the world through certification, how certification is evolving, and how gaining certification can improve production efficiency and reduce costs.

- RSB's Board Chair, Barbara Bramble, attended the Brazilian Bioenergy Science and Technology conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil in October. She spoke on an aviation biofuels panel with UNICAMP and others.



- Rolf Hogan spoke on a panel that included Coca-Cola, Unilever, Natureworks and the IMD Global Center For Sustainability Leadership at the [European Forum for Industrial Biotechnology \(EFIB\) conference](#) in early October in Reims, France. He spoke about meeting the challenges of an emerging value chain and opportunities for improving the sustainability profile of industrial production. Rolf also spoke about Feedstock and Sustainability at the Sustainable Aviation Fuels Forum in Madrid, Spain in mid-October a joint event of three EU projects, each organized by one of the three projects CORE-JetFuel, FORUM-AE and ITAKA; and participated on a panel at the [Slow Food Conference](#) in Turin on Food versus Fuel. The panel was animated by La Stampa, a national Italian newspaper and featuring the Italian Government, ActionAid and Biochemtex CEO Guido Ghisolfi. Rolf presented on RSB's approach to food security, low indirect impact biofuels and our smallholder program.



- Melanie Williams spoke in late October at the [Argus Biofuels and Feedstocks Conference](#) in London, UK. Melanie spoke on a panel about "Supporting Second and Third-Generation Biofuels". Participants included traders, producers, refineries, logistics and storage companies from all around the world.



- Matthew Rudolf spoke in late October at the [5th Annual World Bio Markets USA](#) in San Diego, CA. Matt participated and spoke on the panel "Enabling

bio jet fuel at commercial scale for the supply chain" and also participated in the [Sustainable Aviation Fuel Users Group \(SAFUG\)](#) meetings that week. He also recently attended the [American Fats and Oils Association](#) Annual Meeting as well as an aviation group meeting hosted by ICAO, ATAG and SE4ALL Sustainable Bioenergy HIO during the United Nations Climate Summit in New York City.

- Helena Kennedy represented RSB at the [United Nations Global Compact](#) meeting during the U.N. Climate Week in late September in New York City while Sebastien Haye represented RSB at the UNGC meeting in Geneva, Switzerland in late October. The discussions were centered around food and agriculture principles and sustainability. RSB is a supporter of UNGC. Sebastien also attended the 6th stakeholder meeting of the [European Biofuels Technology Platform](#) in mid-October.



## Upcoming Events

Below is a list of upcoming (and ongoing) events that RSB staff are speaking at or attending. [Visit our events web page](#) for updates. Hope to see you soon!

**3-5 November 2014 - F.O. Licht's World Ethanol & Biofuels Conference, Budapest, Hungary**  
RSB's [Melanie Williams](#) will be speaking about "Measuring Sustainability Across the Supply Chain" at the 17th annual F.O. Licht's World Ethanol and Biofuels conference. Her panel will discuss:

- Calculating and improving GHG emissions and values
- Improving operational efficiencies - water and waste management and energy usage
- What does certification bring to organisations?
- Demonstrating sustainability beyond the RED (how and why)
- How to do a real GHG calculation and ways to reduce GHG intensity

Use VIP Speaker Code: I83S7SPKEM when registering to get 20% off your registration fee! [More information...](#)

**4-6 November 2014 - BSR Conference, New York, USA**

[Matthew Rudolf](#) will be attending the BSR Conference 2014, which will explore how transparency can transform supply chains. [More information...](#)

**4-6 November 2014 - ISEAL Effectiveness Days, London, UK**

Representing RSB, which is a full member of the ISEAL Alliance, [Sebastien Haye](#) will be attending their conference. [More information...](#)

**13 November 2014 - Field to Market, Iowa, USA**

Matt Rudolf is attending the Field to Market conference in Iowa. [More information...](#)

**28 November 2014 - Register of Biofuels Origination (RBO) Conference and General Assembly, Brussels, Belgium**

[Melanie Williams](#) will be speaking at the RBO Conference and attending the General Assembly. RBO is an industry initiative aiming to facilitate compliance with the provisions of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED 2009/28) and the Fuel Quality Directive (FQD 200/30). [More information...](#)

**1-3 December 2014 - RSB Auditor Training, Miami, Florida, USA**

Contact [Liviu Amariei](#) to register by November 8th. [Download the flyer.](#)

**2-3 December 2014 - European Bioplastics Conference, Brussels, Belgium**

Join [Melanie Williams](#) at the 9th Annual European Bioplastics Conference to be held at The Square in Brussels. [More information...](#)

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