

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



## RSB Bulletin August 2011

Dear RSB Members and Friends,

It is a pleasure to present to you the latest RSB Bulletin, which provides updates on several very important milestones in the evolution of the RSB. These include receiving official recognition from the European Union and the receipt of our first applications for RSB Certification. Working with a group of experts, progress continues on revisions to guidelines for land rights, food security and other social issues addressed in the RSB Standard. Other important work in the area of end-of-life products is also discussed.

Forthcoming events include our third auditor training class in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on September 19th and a Brazilian Outreach event on September 22-23 in the Brazilian city of Uberlândia in the Rio Grande Basin.

We appreciate your continued interest and involvement in the activities of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels, and wish you the best with your activities as we work together to consolidate the promise of sustainable biofuels on a global scale.

Very best regards,  
Hans B. (Teddy) Püttgen, PhD

Professeur et Directeur, Energy Center  
EPFL – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne

---

### Table of Contents

- [RSB Certification](#)
- [EU Recognition](#)
- [Revision of guidelines for impact assessment](#)
- [End-of-life products and waste water policies](#)
- [Checklists](#)
- [Forthcoming events](#)

**RSB Certification**

recently. The Manildra Group, an Australian company that uses waste starch and syrup derived from wheat processing to produce bioethanol, has already passed the two steps of the due diligence process, which all applicants for RSB certification undergo (Step 1: Internal evaluation by the RSB Review Committee, and Step 2: A two week public commentary period). Manildra is now accepted as Participating Operator and will be able to embark into the auditing process with one of our accredited Certification Bodies.

### **EU Recognition**

On July 19, 2011 the European Union recognized the RSB standard and certification system as a way to demonstrate compliance with the EU biofuels mandate. Biofuels entering the EU market must demonstrate environmental benefits compared to fossil fuels in order to count towards the mandate established under the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC). The implementing rules of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) include certification under voluntary standards which are recognized by the European Commission (EC) as proof of compliance, in order to facilitate access into the EU market. As a result, the RSB applied for, and successfully obtained, the recognition of the EC and as of the above date, RSB certified biofuels have open access to the EU market without further verification of sustainability aspects. Please see our [press release](#).

### **Revision of guidelines for impact assessment**

The Swiss Development Corporation is providing significant support to the RSB Secretariat to continue to improve the RSB guidelines that support the social principles on land and water rights, food security and rural and social upliftment. The RSB has gathered a team of social experts to help with this important development, who had an in-person meeting in Lausanne in June 2011. The aim of this important project is to make the social impact assessment guidelines more user-friendly and to develop operational to guide operators through the issues. The work focuses on areas where more clarity is desirable; in addition several important definitions have been implemented, such as 'Region of Food Insecurity' and 'Region of Poverty'.

### **End-of-life products and waste water policies**

The specific policy for the use of end-of-life products as biofuel feedstock in the RSB certification system is currently being finalized following the Steering Board's decision to start at the collection point, pending the development of an operational definition of 'Collection Point'. End-of-life products, for the purposes of RSB certification, currently include both Municipal Solid Waste and Used Cooking Oil; inclusion of additional products is under preparation.

The RSB Secretariat is currently developing a specific policy for the use of waste water to produce biofuels as an end-of-life product. It will be submitted to the Steering Board for approval in the coming weeks.

### **Checklists**

The RSB Secretariat is currently working on the development of checklists to help auditors in the evaluation process. Checklists describe the concrete evidences to be sought by auditors during the audit process in order to evaluate compliance of operations with the RSB requirements. Checklists can also be used by operators in preparation of the audit, in order to check that they compiled all the necessary evidences before the audit is undertaken.

### **Forthcoming events**

#### **RSB Training in SE-Asia**

Subscribe to List

View Past Issues

RSS

translate

g

+1

f

Like

Comr

September 19-23, 2011, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. During the training course, all relevant parts of the certification standards will be covered, including the certification protocols and the standards content. The objective is to provide auditors with sufficient knowledge of the RSB Standards to issue certificates to companies seeking RSB certification. The course will conclude with a comprehensive knowledge exam on the final day. Please contact [matthew.rudolf@epfl.ch](mailto:matthew.rudolf@epfl.ch) if you are interested in attending.

### Brazilian Outreach

The RSB is co-organizing an outreach event on biofuels, sustainability and certification on September 22-23 in the Brazilian city of Uberlândia, in the Rio Grande Basin, a key sugarcane production region. According to the local environmental NGO 4 Cantos do Mundo (4 CdM), "local stakeholders in the Rio Grande Basin have a limited understanding of the sustainability issues associated with sugarcane production and expansion, and very limited knowledge about sustainability certification options". 4 CdM and RSB are organizing this workshop to increase awareness among local civil society groups and biofuel stakeholders of the sustainability issues associated with sugarcane production and expansion. The event will also introduce these stakeholders to the concept of sustainability certification, both regulatory and voluntary. The voluntary standards presented will include the RSB Standard, Bonsucro, and others. Another key goal of the workshop is to bring together local civil society groups and sugarcane & bioethanol producers to promote a dialogue about the impacts, both positive and negative, of the industry on Brazilian society. Workshop attendees are expected to be farmers, biofuel producers, NGOs, certification bodies, government employees, consultants, local environmental experts, community organizers and other members of the local community.

If you would like to unsubscribe from this list please follow the link below.

[Unsubscribe](#) [anne-sophie.doernbrack@epfl.ch](mailto:anne-sophie.doernbrack@epfl.ch) from this list | [Forward to a friend](#) | [Update your profile](#)

**Our mailing address is:**  
Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels  
EPFL-Energy Center  
Station 5  
Lausanne 1015

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2011 Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels All rights reserved.

MailChimp