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RSB Bulletin May 2011

Dear RSB Members and friends,

Welcome to the latest RSB Bulletin!

I am happy to announce that since our last Bulletin, we officially launched the RSB certification system on March 22 at the World Biofuels Market conference in Rotterdam. Thanks to all of you who have shared with us your advice and expertise during the process of developing the RSB Standard and certification system. The multi-stakeholder consensus that is represented by the agreement of the Steering Board on Version 2 will make the RSB Principles & Criteria a credible and valuable certification standard for all those who wish or need to make verifiable claims on their sustainability efforts in a competitive market.

We continue to work hard to make sure that the system will be of benefit to as many companies, producers and stakeholders as possible. Please read on for more details regarding the latest developments.

Best regards,

Alwin

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Successful Steering Board Meeting

The Steering Board held its last teleconference on April 26, 2011.

Key developments include:

- A report on the peer review and the finalization of the methodologies regarding GHGs and fossil fuel baselines;
- Discussion of preliminary decision points regarding the development of a potential GHG emissions trading system for RSB certified operators;
- Two-Tiered system: discussions on the draft Tier 1 standard proposed by the Secretariat and way forward, including Tier 1 content and the transition mechanism, which will both involve the Working Group on transition and the RSB Chambers.
- The opening of a co-chair position for Chamber 3 (details regarding election for the Chamber 3 co-chair will be sent out soon);
- RSB Forum. The Steering Board agreed on the concept for a RSB Forum in November 2011, subject to the availability of funds. The Forum will provide an opportunity for RSB members and non-members to meet in person and host multi-stakeholder discussions and consensus-building activities. The RSB Forum could be held in the days leading up to the UN Climate meeting (COP 17) in Durban, South Africa. Our plan is that this forum would be held back-to-back with the meeting of the Steering Board. We hope to have details on this soon, and look forward to having you join us!

European Commission Recognition Expected Soon

After the official recognition of the RSB certification system by the German authorities, we are awaiting full official recognition by the European Commission (EC), which is expected by the end of May. We will let you know once the decision of the EC is known.

RSB Tool Available Online (Beta Version)

We have recently posted the RSB Tool in a beta version online, and are collecting comments and users' feedback on this important web based tool enabling operators to apply online for certification, do the necessary self-evaluations regarding the RSB standards and calculate their GHG performance. We expect the GHG calculator to be fully operational by the end of May. You can access the tool from the RSB homepage (<http://www.rsb.org>).

We invite you to test the tool and provide us with your valuable feedback. All information you provide on the tool is kept confidential.

Targeted Geographical Initiatives

We are pleased to report that we have been involved in a number of initiatives in diverse regions, including the Pacific Northwest (U.S. and Canada), Ethiopia and Mexico, which are actively working with multiple stakeholders on biofuel road mapping activities in their respective regions. As the scheduled road mapping meetings for these initiatives come to closure, we have planned follow up activities to build upon the work of these groups, and further strengthen our presence in these regions.

We were informed by WWF International that the Chinese State Forest Administration (SFA) released two important documents: "Guidelines for sustainable bioenergy plantations" and the "Guidelines for sustainable silviculture of jatropha plantation". The RSB Principles & Criteria were used as an input.

In the UK, the Nuffield Council on Bioethics released a report on biofuels and features the RSB. Its report can be found at: <http://www.nuffieldbioethics.org/biofuels>

The Jatropha Alliance conducted a study on sustainability standards and jatropha production in Mozambique and presented conclusions during the RSB certification launch event in Rotterdam. It looked at 44 standards and concluded that the RSB is the most suitable to work with. More information can be found on the Jatropha Alliance website at: <http://www.jatropha-alliance.org>

Waste Not, Want Not

Defining, or even using the term "waste" in biofuel production is quite challenging. The RSB Secretariat is working hard to clarify how biofuels made out of a variety of residues and by-products, such as palm residues, tallow, used cooking oil, municipal solid waste, wheat starch and fish residues can become certified. This work will include the development of approaches for incorporating these different feedstocks into the RSB Chain of Custody, and identifying the extent to which each must be traced and assessed individually against the RSB Standard.

Auditor Training Course in Mexico, 6-10 June

Following up on a successful auditor training course held in early April in Lausanne, we are pleased to announce our next training session for auditors, which will take place over five days, from 6 to 10 June in Mexico City. Please contact Matt Rudolf at matthew.rudolf@epfl.ch if you would like to take part in the course.

RSB Services

The launching of RSB Services is imminent. This new entity will be in charge of the implementation of the RSB certification. Its development is coordinated by Peter Ryus. Check out the RSB Services website at www.rsb-services.com

RSB Secretariat

The Secretariat is pleased to welcome Anne-Sophie Doernbrack, who is joining the RSB team for a 6 month internship. Maneka Kopalan, who is based in Kuala Lumpur, will strengthen the RSB Secretariat in the coming 6 months.

Agenda

The RSB team will participate in the following events:

- World Biofuels 2011 – Seville, Spain (11-12 May 2011)
- Challenge Bibendum 2011 (Michelin) – Berlin, German (17-22 May 2011). RSB Side Event on May 19. The side event is open to the public; registration to the Challenge Bibendum is needed (free of charge) . This can be done through the RSB Secretariat until May 5, 5pm Swiss time. Please contact the RSB Secretariat for more details.

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