



Bioeconomy and Sustainable Development: *Framing the EU-India Policy and Research Agendas*

DSOS 2015 _ Thematic Track
With support from the VITO

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

February 7, 2015 | 1100 – 1300 hours

Jehangir Hall, Hotel Taj Palace, Sardar Patel Marg, Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi, Delhi 110021

Summary

Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen proposed that humanity's true problem is not economic but 'bio-economic' wherein economic processes lead into entropic flows of energy and matter which were fundamental bioeconomic factors that need to be considered when looking at human presence within a finite biosphere.

The concept of 'bioeconomy' revolves around a technology transition, especially biotechnology, which uses bio-resources. Bioeconomy is also envisaged to have broader social-economic implications to achieve the goals of sustainable development. It is important to understand that while biomass is a renewable resource at the local level, it is not an unlimited resource and for several ecological processes, bio resources are also not substitutable. At the moment, a narrow industrial and rent-seeking perspective dominates the bioeconomy agenda.

Recognizing the need transition from the narrow industrial perspective of bioeconomy to a 'bioeconomic' perspective, VITO, Belgium and The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi will organize a track event that will seek set an India-EU agenda for bioeconomy especially for innovation policy and industry.

The event will seek to stir a discussion around multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder approaches to a sustainable bioeconomy agenda that takes into cognizance social, ecology and economic processes.

Objective

Inputs to frame an India-EU agenda for bioeconomy especially from the science, technology & innovation policy and industrial policy perspective

Key questions guiding the discussion

- ❖ What critical needs in India, can a bioeconomy address? What approaches are needed for a bioeconomy vision in India?
- ❖ How can policy and technology development agendas around bioeconomy go beyond the domain of life sciences?
- ❖ How can policy agendas around bioeconomy go beyond profit motives to addressing societal and development needs?
- ❖ How can processes go beyond top-down technology development and knowledge transfer to more horizontal participatory knowledge exchange?
- ❖ What do sustainable development imperatives entail for the EU-India technology cooperation agenda?

Format

The session will be conducted in the form of a structured panel discussion. The set-up will involve a panel of 5-6 experts and the participating audience. An expert chair – who has an expertise in the role of technology policy and economic development – will moderate a discussion. The discussion will start with welcome, setting the stage, and introduction of the Chair. After this, the Chair will introduce the panellists and set expectations from the discussion. A framing presentation on India-EU bioeconomy collaboration prepared by VITO and TERI will be made. All experts on the panel will contribute to the discussion based on the order decided by the Chair. The interventions made by the panellists should be directed to addressing the objective of the discussion. The chair will then invite questions and comments from participants in the room. The Chair will be expected to distil key points of relevance emerging from the discussion and will also provide opinion. After the panel discussion, the Chair will sum up the discussion briefly. Notes will be made from the discussions which will be written as recommendations and will be provided as inputs to the Department of Science and Technology, EU Commission and other stakeholders. The session will end with a vote of thanks. Participants will then be invited for lunch.