

Energy for Poverty Alleviation in Sahel

Intelligent Energy Project

Project Newsletter , 10/A, Lisbon, , April 2007



Ministerial Conference on « Energy and Poverty Reduction in the Sahel »

Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), 29 - 31 May 2007

I BACKGROUND

The Instituto Superior Técnico (Higher Technical Institute - IST) of Portugal is the coordinator of the Project entitled "Energy for Poverty Reduction in the Sahel" abbreviated to IE4SAHEL, co-financed by the European Union through the Intelligent Energy Europe Initiative, COOPENER Program. The Consortium set up to implement this Project comprises two other European partners, which are Energy for Sustainable Development Ltd of the United Kingdom and the Center for Renewable Energy Sources of Greece. The beneficiary and subcontractor of the Project is AGRHYMET Regional Centre (ARC), a specialized institute of CILSS based in Niamey. The Project started its activities in April 2005 and was due to last 24 months.

The IE4SAHEL Project's main objective is to strengthen Sahelian countries' capacity to develop and implement energy policies consistent with the objectives of poverty reduction and the achievement of Millenium Development Goals.

The first workshop was held in Niamey at the AGRHYMET Regional Centre from 02 to 06 October 2006. This workshop, which witnessed the participation of 36 policy makers and experts in energy issues from eight Sahelian and four European countries, was a forum for discussion and capacity building on several themes related to energy and poverty. The issue of energy - poverty was the subject of a multidisciplinary analysis with focus on social, political, economic, cultural and environmental aspects. The Niamey workshop was evaluated positively by the participants.

Before the end of the Project, IST and ARC intend to organize a second meeting at a higher political level. The meeting, which will be held during the last week of May 2007, will be an opportunity to discuss the actual energy and poverty situation, to exchange views between member countries and donors, to compare experience in terms of failures and success stories. During the meeting, the IE4SAHEL Project's results will be presented and the future Network of Sahelian Experts in charge of Energy and Poverty will be launched.

II OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the conference are as follows:

- To promote awareness-raising and discussions at the highest level on the importance of addressing the issue of energy - poverty through rational policies and effective projects for poverty reduction with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals;
- To identify options to strengthen regional co-operation in the field of energy in line with the objectives of poverty reduction;



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- To present the IE4Sahel Project's main results;
- To launch the Sahelian Network on "Energy and Poverty Reduction in the Sahel".

III Draft Work Programme of the Conference

The work programme of the conference includes the meeting of experts and the ministerial meeting scheduled to take place on 29 - 30 May and 31 May 2007, respectively.

1. Work Programme of the Meeting of Experts:

The work programme of the meeting of experts includes scientific papers and working group sessions.

a. Scientific Papers

- Analysis of interrelationships between energy, poverty and sustainable development within the Sahelian context;
- Comparative analysis of failures and success stories in poverty reduction policies or projects, which consider energy issues;
- Tools and strategies for developing energy policies in line with the objectives of poverty reduction;
- Inclusion of energy issues into regional development policies: opportunities and constraints;
- Assessment of the implementation of the IE4 Sahel project;
- Mechanisms for sharing knowledge and information in line with energy issues;
- Statutes governing the Sahelian Network on "Energy and Poverty Reduction in the Sahel".

b. Working Group Sessions

The meeting of experts will consider the following two topics:

Strengthening regional co-operation in the field of energy in the Sahel in line with the objectives of poverty reduction:

- What are the regional institutions working on the issue of "energy and poverty reduction in the Sahel" and how could their capacity be strengthened?
- What are the existing regional policies which can serve as models for developing a regional programme on "energy for poverty reduction"?

- What are the priority actions to take in order to promote inter-Saharan co-operation in the field of energy within the context of poverty reduction?
- What are the concrete actions to take in order to set up a regional energy programme in line with poverty reduction and how to prioritize these actions?

Amendments of the Statutes governing the Network on "Energy and Poverty Reduction"

- One of the expected results of the IE4SAHEL project is the setting up of a Sahelian network in charge of the theme "Energy and Poverty Reduction in the Sahel". Therefore, the Network's statutes were prepared.

2. Ministerial Meeting

The meeting of experts will prepare and submit a report, which will contain the assessment of the implementation of the IE4Sahel project and guidance to strengthen Sahelian co-operation in the field of energy in line with the objectives of poverty reduction, to the ministers for consideration. What is needed is to get political support for the implementation of these options of regional collaboration.

IV Organization of the Conference

1. Preparation of the conference

a. Date and Venue

The conference is scheduled to take place at the CILSS' headquarters in Ouagadougou on **29, 30 and 31 May 2007**.

b. Participants

The participants of the Ouagadougou conference are:

Ministers in charge of energy issues from CILSS member States;

Permanent secretaries of CONACILSS (PS/CONACILSS);

An expert in the field of energy from each CILSS member States;

The European Commission;

Development partners operating in the field of energy in the Sahel

The private sector;

NGOs;

Regional or international research institutions.

Project Schedule

The project is scheduled to be developed until mid-2007, with the realisation of two main Workshops, from where the project team already ask for interested parties to mark in your agenda.

1st Workshop - 3 - 6 October 2006 – Niger

2nd Workshop - 29-31 May 2007

Besides these two Workshops the project is also committed to involved institutions to build a permanent network between the professionals

Istituto Superior Tecnico RGESD - IST Portugal	ESD - Energy for Sustainable Development Ltd UK	CRES - Center for Renewable Energy Sources. Greece	ARC - AGHRYMET Center Niger
Long experienced research team in the field of energy planning and renewable energy systems.	Consultant firm with experience in energy policy and regulation.	The Greek national centre for Renewable Energy Sources, Rational Use of Energy and Energy Saving.	Specialised institution committed with the food security and to help the management of natural resources in the CILSS region..

The Project Team

How to contact the Project Team

to have up to date information on the project visit our website - <http://ie4sahel.energyprojects.net>
to contact the staff, receive the newsletter, contribute with papers or for informations and comments
ie4sahel@energyprojects.net

Or use the following form

Family Name.....First Name.....
Profession.....Company-Institute.....
Postal address.....Postal code.....City.....Country.....
Phone Fax.....E-mail.....

☐ I am interested in the IE4 Sahel project. Send me an invitation for public meetings about IE4 Sahel.

☐ Please add only my name to the mailing list and send me more information about IE4 Sahel

Send to ARC – AGRHYMET Regional Centre P.O.Box 11011 - Niamey – Niger Fax: + 227 73 29 78 or to
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