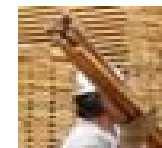


Certification of Biomass & Environmental Impacts

Ishmael Dodoo

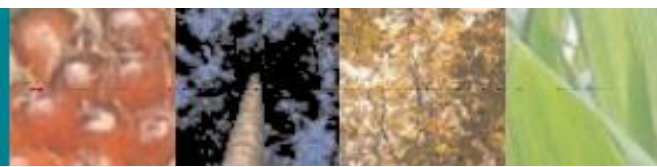


Main environmental and social impacts for biomass

- Forest conversion for energy crop plantations
- Increasing deforestation
- Destruction of biodiversity and HCVs
- GHG emissions through production
- Land tenure and usufructs conflicts
- Food security and livelihood sustainability
- Labour issues etc

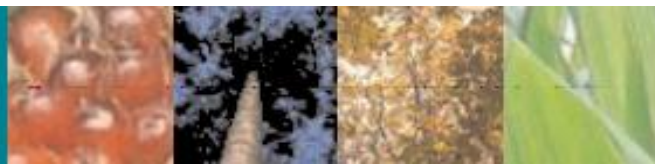
Role of certification in policy

- Provides credible basis for consensus building on:
 - Definition of sustainability (STANDARDS) incorporating key environmental and social impacts
 - Independent mechanism (VERIFICATION) for measuring and monitoring progress in addressing these impacts
 - Credible mechanism for communicating progress (usually as a market incentive)



Limitation

- Certification ONLY addresses issues specific to the certified management unit
- Certification DOES NOT always address external issues
 - Policy and governance
 - Displacement and growing competition for land between different users
 - Food security issues
- Certification is NOT a guarantee for sustainability



Challenges..

- Cost and capacity
- Equity problems with smallholders and SMFEs
- Organising supply chain
- Proliferation of schemes for each biomass source:
 - RSPO for oil palm
 - RTRS for soy
 - FSC, PEFC, SFI for wood
 - BSI for sugar cane etc

Finding solutions...

- Certification useful as a tool to promote progress towards sustainability
- Proliferation: use framework criteria
- Combine policy and certification
 - Political commitment to mainstream certification in national and regional policies
 - Extra safeguards thru adequate law enforcement and governance
 - Support for SMFEs and smallholders-addressing equity
- Addressing sustainable livelihoods
 - HCVs-Landscape mapping of biodiversity values
 - Food security-Land use framework distinguishing food production areas from all other uses