



First Announcement

International Workshop on Small- and Medium-Scale Biogas

“The Evolution of Public-Private Partnerships to Accelerate the Development of Commercial Biogas Sectors”

26-28 November 2013, Hanoi, Vietnam

Introduction:

In 2003, the Netherlands-Vietnam cooperation on domestic biogas was initiated. Over the past decade, the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and SNV Netherlands Development Organisation demonstrated the great value of public-private partnership for the development of the biogas market. Additional financial support was secured from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank and others for the further growth of the sector resulting in a total of about 200,000 digesters installed by 2013. The biogas programme achieved international recognition through winning the prestigious World Energy Award, Ashden Award, and Energy Globe Award. In April 2011, the Vietnam Biogas Association (VBA) was established with a vision to become a leading organisation representing biogas sector enterprises, institutions and individuals in Vietnam. As a spin-off of the domestic biogas programme, a niche market started to evolve around medium-scale biogas plants.



Although a lot has been achieved in just 10 years, there is still work to be done in order to establish a commercial biogas sector in Vietnam. In order to achieve this, the partnership between public and private parties in the sector will need to further evolve. Carefully designed institutional development will have to take place: What are the roles to be played by respectively private and government actors? What will be the added value of the biogas association in the sector? Other countries in Asia, each in a different manner and context, are experiencing challenges on the public-private partnership in the biogas sector.

Sharing the experiences between these countries is paramount to further develop the biogas sectors in Asia. More than 50 different organisations cooperate in the Working Group on Domestic Biogas convened by SNV under the Energy for All Partnership (E4ALL) initiated by the ADB. The objective of this group is the construction of one million domestic biogas plants across fifteen Asian countries by 2016, which would access to sustainable energy to five million people. The achievement of this target will not be possible without adequate institutional set-up and cooperation between public and private actors. In addition, emerging market-based financial mechanisms like results-based financing and climate finance; technical innovations; and demand for medium-scale biogas also need a platform for discussion and advancement.

Given this need for on-going discussion and collaboration, the VBA, MARD through “Biogas Program for the Animal Husbandry Sector of Vietnam” and SNV, in cooperation with the ADB/E4ALL, are organising an International Biogas Workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam.



Objective of the workshop, methods and number of participants:

This workshop has the following objectives:

- i. To learn and share experiences regarding the progress and challenges facing the domestic and medium-scale biogas programme in Asia (presentations, discussion, field visit);
- ii. To present, discuss and advance the current institutional set-up of the biogas sector including the possible roles of biogas associations and the need for changes in the partnership between private and public actors to arrive at a commercial sector (presentations and discussion);
- iii. To present, discuss and advance the development of market-based finance mechanisms; technical innovation; medium-scale biogas plants; and productive use of biogas (presentations and discussion).

A total of 75 persons are expected to participate in the workshop. This diverse group will consist of representatives from the private, civil society and government biogas sector in Asian countries (in total 40 persons), representatives from development partners and banks (15 persons) and stakeholders from the biogas sector in Vietnam (20 persons).

Date, venue, language, organisation and funding:

The workshop will take place November 26-28, 2013 in Hanoi, Vietnam. While English will be the workshop language, translation between English and Vietnamese languages will be made available. This event is organised by VBA, MARD and SNV and funded by DGIS/SNV and ADB/E4ALL.

Tentative programme:

The workshop will feature both plenary and parallel sessions. On the second day, VBA will organise a field visit on domestic and medium-scale biogas. The tentative programme is as follows:

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| Tuesday, 26 November: |
| Key presentations on domestic and medium-scale biogas development in Vietnam |
| Celebration of 10 years of public-private partnership in the domestic biogas sector in Vietnam |
| Country-based working sessions focussed on the evolvement of PPPs including associations |
| Presentation of the key results of the country-based working sessions |
| Wednesday, 27 November: |
| Exhibition and field visit organised by VBA |
| Thursday, 28 November: |
| Key-presentations on innovative financial mechanisms (result-based financing, climate finance, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), impact investment funding); innovative biogas plant design and gas application; perspective of medium-scale/productive biogas |
| Parallel sessions on various key issues |
| Presentation of the results of the group discussions |

Participation, registration, and sponsoring:

The workshop is open to all interested stakeholders. There is no registration fee, but all related (logistical) costs and arrangements must be borne by workshop attendees; no reimbursements will be offered. ADB and SNV will invite a limited number of stakeholders to participate in the workshop on the basis of sponsorship.

Contact:

For further information and to register, please contact Ms Dagmar Zwebe of SNV Vietnam on dzwebe@snvworld.org by 31 October 2013 at the latest. We would like to ask participants based in Vietnam to specifically inform us which days they wish to participate – for optimal logistical planning.