

Bioenergy and food security

The BEFS Analysis for Peru



Supporting the policy machinery in Peru







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The Bioenergy and Food Security Project
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



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FOREWORD

Bioenergy, and particularly liquid biofuels, have been promoted as a means to enhance energy independence, promote rural development and reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. In principle there are many benefits offered by bioenergy developments but these need to be balanced against the impacts on food security and the environment. While there has been a rush by many governments to develop bioenergy alternatives to fossil fuels this has often been done in the absence of a wider understanding of the full costs and benefits of bioenergy. In this context, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with generous funding from the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) set up the Bioenergy and Food Security (BEFS) project to assess how bioenergy developments could be implemented without hindering food security.

The BEFS project is unique - in many ways ahead of its time. Usually projects focus on a single issue but BEFS sought to approach the problem of food security in an integrative and comprehensive manner. The project inherently understood that promoting food security through bioenergy or indeed any other instrument could not be done in a one-dimensional way. Rather it required balancing the many issues that have an effect on bioenergy and food security and considering them jointly to arrive at a set of considerations that better reflected reality and could support policy in a more meaningful way. The project developed an analytical framework comprised of a series of technical analyses which allows for a holistic assessment on bioenergy development and food security. This analytical framework has been implemented in Peru, Tanzania and Thailand.

The analysis presented in this document describes the implementation of the BEFS Analytical Framework in Peru. The analysis provides an entry point into the issues surrounding bioenergy and food security. The results arising from the analysis should not be seen as definitive but they do provide strong direction in terms of identifying the policy priorities. As part of the activities under the project training is provided to build in-country capacity in the use of the BEFS tools so that the analysis may be repeated and extended to reflect the prevailing policy priorities and also to support policy adjustments as the bioenergy sector evolves.



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