

Socio-economic considerations for technology development some thoughts against the background of IEA Bioenergy Task 29



#### /// Dr. Sebastian Elbe

IEA Committee on Energy Research and Technology (CERT). Experts' Group on R&D Priority-Setting and Evaluation. 24. - 25. May 2011, Baden, Austria



### *sprint///* My own field of work

Research

#### /// Financing Regional Development









**Evaluation** 

## *sprint///* Own Background

3

#### /// Financing the German contribution



Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection



If the Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR) was founded in 1993 by the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

// Main responsibilities of FNR:

- / to support R&D in the area of renewable resources
- / to inform the public about current research results
- / to give advice on a range of applications of renewable resources and organise and take part in scientific events





### Background

#### /// Aims of Task 29

Socio-Economic Drivers in Implementing Bioenergy Projects

// Task 29 is an ongoing initiative from 1 January 2000 with the aim to:

- Achieve a better understanding of the social and economic drivers and impacts of establishing bioenergy markets at the local, regional, national and international level,
- / synthesise and transfer to stakeholders critical knowledge and new information,
- improve the assessment of the above mentioned impacts of biomass production and utilisation in order to increase the uptake of bioenergy and to provide guidance to policy makers.

#### /// Role and Feed into technology R&D

1st: Social and political sciences are <u>not</u> accompanying auxiliary sciences!

2nd: Social and political sciences have to be integrated all stages of technology development processes
 starting with the education of engineers
 covering technology development including
 technology assessment and acceptance/acceptability

/ and technology implementation



#### /// Acceptance or acceptability

- Who develops technology for whom and who benefits? And what are rational reasons?
- // Technical perspective: Lack of information/knowledge: Does the technology work?

Emotional perspective: "Not in my backyard!"

- ✓ protests against nuclear, pumped storage power plants, CCS, biogas plants, wind farms, new high voltage lines, gas/coal power plants ... Although the expansion of renewable energies a social consensus
- / but I can not hear protests against land consumption and pollution for batteries or the danger that China will strongly limiting or stop exporting the necessary "rare earths" (nearly 97% comes from China)

Not information or R&D results are convincing by their own people can convince

# *sprint///* The future is always more promising than presence!

#### /// Does technology work?

IPG and natural gas vehicles: Technique and gas station net available - since years/decades

#### Deutschland fährt (noch) ab auf Benzin Netz mit Löchern Die große Mehrheit der deutschen Autos ist mit Benzin oder Diesel Nach Benzin- und Dieselzapfsäulen müssen unterwegs. Immerhin mehr als 400 000 fahren mit Flüssiggas. Autofahrer nicht lange Pkw-Bestand in Deutschland am 1.1.2011 suchen, Auch Besitzer von Autogasfahrzeugen 14 744 finden verhältnismäßig oft BENZIN eine Tankstelle, Die 30 487 578 Infrastruktur für Elektro-, Erdgas und Wasserstoffautos ist noch dürftig. Anzahl der Tankstellen DIESEL in Deutschland 11 266 644 6 219 FLÜSSIGGAS (einschl. bivalent) 418 659 ERDGAS (einschl. bivalent) 71 519 HYBRID 37 256 940 887 ELEKTRO 2 307 27 **Diesel/ Natural LPG Hydro** Elec petrol tric gas gen

### sprint///



http://www.bioenergie-region-hot.de/

10

#### /// Acceptance or acceptability

- Rational or not? Engineer sciences regard emotional reasons as not rational. For social sciences emotional reasons are rational.
- Role of social and political sciences concerning the stages of technology development processes
  (education, development, assessment, implementation)
  part of inter- and transdisciplinary approaches integrating environmental psychology, communication sciences, economic, environmental risk research ...
  - I bringing in new aspects and methods depending on the particular technology development process - there is no "one size fits all": e.g. scenario writing or development of arguments for improvement of acceptance/acceptability right from the beginning
  - Advocate of the end-user perspective not only thinking about technology

#### /// R&D must be more than reports and Guideline-fication

- For science reports/publications and gudelines are too often the final product. But these products are not the real aim --> the implementation of the results must be the aim
- May be we need smaller and faster research projects. But we nee in every case a follow up process linked to research project, responsible for the implementation of the results including an evaluation of the successes and failures.
- Especially in the field of Bioenergy we have a rising Guidelinefication as core product of R&D projects concerning socioeconomic issues. But you reads guides and acts the way it is proposed?

# *sprint///* Technology and social and political sciences

#### /// It is a question of communication

If to do so, a sound qualification is a prerequisite: only if someone has an own and secure position in her/his field of work she/he can accept other arguments - if not, it is only defending not discussing or improving...

### *sprint///* Model Project Bio-Energy Regions

#### /// Aims of the competition

// contribution to the national climate protection aims

initiation and improvement of regional bio-energy networks

// knowledge transfer and qualification

// motivation of regional actors

I reducing and solving conflicts in the field of bio-energy

introducing alternatives to energy/oil imports

exploiting of the regional economic potentials in the field of bioenergy in rural areas

### *sprint///* Model Project Bio-Energy Regions

#### /// Map, Money, Objectives



✓ 25 regions 400.000€ for 3 years (06/2009 till 05/2011) for soft measures (no direct investments)

#### 🖊 aims:

creating bio-energy networks and regional added value; combating climate change, public relations for bionergy use

. . .



### *sprint///* Model Project Bio-Energy Regions

#### /// Organisation

- National Ministry installed an office (assigned to the Agency for Renewable Resources, FNR) for supporting the implementation incl. assessment of applications, financial issues, networking between the regions, public relations on national level
- Accompanying research divided into two parts: Economictechnical (German Biomass Research Centre (DBFZ)) as well as social and political (nova-Institute and SPRINT). Our fields:
  - Regional value chains approaches for regional development
  - / Regional networks status and development
  - / Knowledge management
  - Conflicts how to solve
  - / Continuation of networks, management and projects

### *sprint*/// Regional Competitions

#### /// It works - also in the field of Bio-energy!

- The overall framework conditions constitute the opportunities and threats. Experiences, recommendations and checklists for implementing the 5 principles in a regional competition on both levels (programme level and regional level) are available.
- ✓ From the viewpoint of the programme level: Competitions are not expensive (Bio-energy Regions: 25 x 400.000€ = 10. Mio. € within 3 years) but with high impact on mobilisation in the regions and public awareness. But do not underestimate the need for supporting structures!
- From the viewpoint of the regions: Money for the implementation of RDPs is the crucial point! Money for initiating bio-energy network activities, information transfer and convincing people to invest are crucial

