



OECD Workshop on Best Practices for Assessing the Sustainability of Bio- based Products

Montreal, July 23-24, 2009

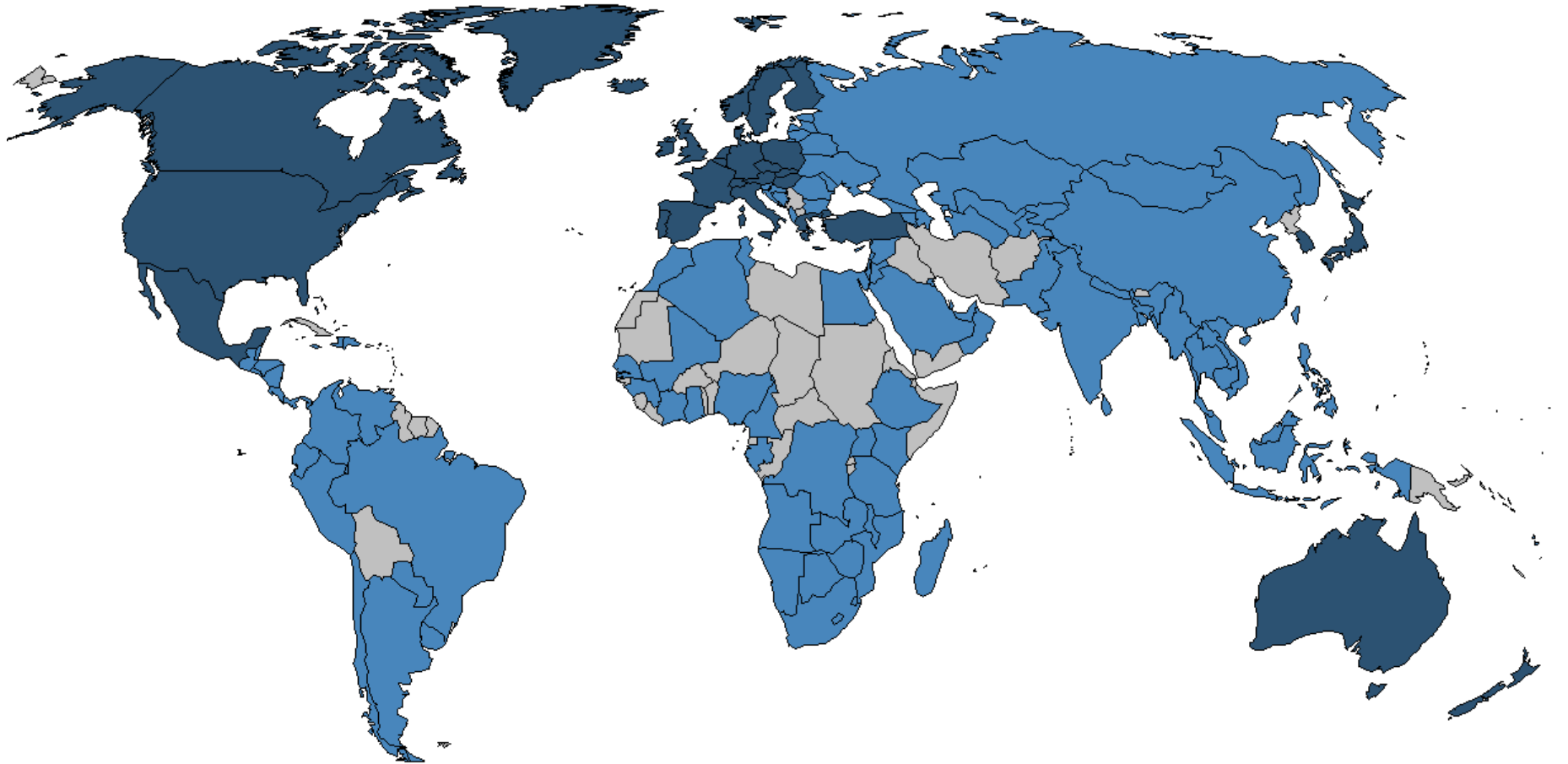
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The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

- Created after WWII to implement the Marshall Plan
- 30 member countries mostly from North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific
- Expanding membership
- 100 countries participate in OECD work

OECD member countries and participating countries



OECD Convention -- goals

- Promote sustainable economic growth
- Raise living standards & create employment
- Encourage open global trade system
- Promote financial stability
- Assist the economic development of non-Members

OECD -- An Instrument for Governments

- **A forum** in which governments work together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of interdependence and globalisation
- **A peer review process**, series of guidelines, to influence national policies
- **A source of statistics** - provider of comparative data, analysis and forecasts to underpin multilateral co-operation

OECD priorities

How do you decouple sustainable economic growth from environmental degradation?

- **2009 OECD Ministerial Green Growth Declaration**

- *“... The OECD can, through policy analysis and identification of best practices, assist countries in their efforts to respond to the growing policy demands to foster green growth and work with countries to develop further measures to build sustainable economies... STRENGTHEN our (Ministers’) efforts to pursue green growth strategies as part of our response to the current crisis and beyond, acknowledging that “green” and “growth” can go hand-in-hand...”*

- **2010 OECD Innovation Strategy**

- **Ongoing OECD work on Eco-Innovation**

Promoting an Eco-efficient Bioeconomy

- Facilitating a transition to a bio-economy will help achieve green growth and:
 - Meet climate change challenges
 - Feed global population
 - Provide novel forms of energy to supplement fossil fuels
 - Change population demographics
 - *Technological advances?*

OECD Working Party on Biotechnology & IB

- Report on Supply Side Issues for the Delivery of Industrial Biotechnology, forthcoming
- 21 Case Studies of the benefits of bio-products & bioprocesses across sectors, *2001*
- *Metrics to support informed decision-making for consumers of bio-based products, 2009*
- *Bio-fuel support policies: An economic assessment, 2008*

WPB work on Industrial Biotech

- **Emerging Risks to Water Supply: Best practices for improved management and preparedness to protect public health, 2005**
- ***The Application of Biotechnology to Industrial Sustainability, 2001***
- **Biotechnology for Clean Industrial Products and Processes, 1998**
- ***Molecular technologies for safe drinking water, Health policy brief, 1998***
- **Biotechnology for a Clean Environment: Prevention, Detection, Remediation, 1994.**
- **Biotechnology for Water Use and Conservation, 1996**
- **Wider Application and Diffusion of Bioremediation Technologies, 1995**

The need for best practices

- The Task Force on Industrial Biotechnology decided in 11/2008 that...
- There are no *internationally accepted* best practices -- or instruments -- for assessing the economic and environmental sustainability of bio-based products and processes
- Agreement on assessment methodology best practices would be useful for governments, industry and promote the application of industrial biotechnology

Workshop Objectives

- **Take stock of existing approaches** for the assessment of the sustainability of bio-based products,
 - bio-based chemicals, bio-based plastics, enzymes, bio-based materials, bio-fuels, etc.;
- Consider what might constitute **a comprehensive sustainability assessment**;
- Discuss what are the **common and divergent approaches** in assessment methodologies;
- Identify barriers to the application of current assessment methodologies;
- Discuss **key elements of best practices**.

Workshop Structure & Format

Sessions will cover:

- 1) Current approaches to planning for and assessing the sustainability of bio-based products;
- 2) Key issues and parameters in assessing the environmental and economic sustainability of bio-based products;
- 3) Discussion of best practices in assessing sustainability of bio-based products;
- 4) Best practices – towards implementation.

Expected Workshop Outcomes

- **Possible scope of OECD Best Practices**
- **Identification of current best practices for sustainability frameworks, operational methods and tools, and indicators**
- **Discussion of actual needs by government, industry society for international Best Practices assessment methodologies for bio-based products.**

Outputs

- OECD policy report on Assessment Methodologies, draft by Stantec
- Draft Best Policies for discussion by OECD TFIB and WPB, fall 2009
- Decision on development of OECD instrument to be made by WPB in February 2010

Thanks

- **Industry Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Environment Canada.**
- **The OECD Steering group, including: Austria, Italy, South Africa, the United States, and Business Industry Advisory Committee.**