

The Next Steps

Dr. I.V.Ramanuja Rao
and
Andrew Benton

INBAR

Desired Outcome

- The main outcome is to get clarity and agreement on the way to take the inclusion of bamboo in CDM as in Kyoto and REDD as in Bali

Kyoto via Bali and Bangkok to ...?

- The Kyoto Protocol (CDM) comes to an end in 2012
- As we all know a new protocol is being negotiated to succeed it.
- Bali was the first step and agreed on REDD.
- Bangkok was the second step in the process....
- Further meetings will be held to resolve issues during which INBAR and its member countries need to bring up the need to specifically identify bamboo since it is woody biomass. - *Bamboo is not only is a constituent of natural mixed forests, but occurs as pure stands, besides in plantations and homesteads*
- As an intergovernmental body, INBAR is in a good position to convene its member governments and get consensus on including bamboo in the new agreement that will succeed Kyoto

REDD

- REDD=Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
- The Kyoto protocol actually promotes deforestation since it only records and pays for new biomass growth
- Keeping forests is much cheaper than establishing new ones
- If trees are cut, carbon is released, which needs to be captured again through new plantations

CDM, REDD & Bamboo

- Bamboo harvesting does not lead to deforestation. Cutting trees does.
- While the Kyoto protocol or the new dispensation that is being negotiated is all tree-based. So trees cannot be cut, and if you do, the carbon credit being derived is lost.
- This problem does not exist with bamboos due to its different growth habit. – Only mature bamboo poles are cut, and if this is the annual increment, then that would leave a relatively constant amount of carbon fixed in the growing stock, which should qualify.
- Bamboo in CDM/REDD would thus be more rural poverty friendly than trees, since the poor could continue to benefit from the bamboo, via income generation.

Data needed: biomass and carbon distribution in bamboo

- Rhizome
 - How much woody biomass does it contain?
 - How long does a rhizome stay alive?
- Culms
 - Some data is available on culm biomass
 - Data is needed for all major species, individually

Monitoring: Homestead Bamboo – mitigation and adaptation

- If it can be counted and tracked, it should qualify
- Open-to-Sky bamboos – satellite imagery/GIS
- Individual bamboo clumps can be tracked
- Bamboo on margins of fields would improve microclimate, increase water capture and recharge, add to soil organic carbon, ameliorate pH, and enhance agriculture

Private Sector caucus

- Large non-functional agricultural farms, eg, sugarcane farms in Hawaii, could plant bamboo if there were carbon credits, while still qualifying for tax rebates
- Interest in bamboo from carbon company in USA and bamboo plantation company in Ethiopia.

Suggested next steps

1. Building Coalitions and Lobbying

- **Build coalitions of various interest groups** - those who have a vested interest in bamboo becoming an accepted CER and REDD material, like trees - *Governments, Private sector, Rural communities and NGOs etc will all reap cash benefits provided that there is this recognition*
- Interest already shown in bamboo from carbon company in USA and bamboo plantation company in Ethiopia.
- Establish the “Bamboo in the CDM” network – *commencing this meeting!!!!*.

2. International Technical Working Group

- Establish an **international technical working group** possibly backed by technical working groups in national governments.
- Such national committees already exist for CDM and need to include bamboo as an option.
- Main task would be to put together the needed data, including getting data collected through field studies.
- Research needed on different species in different countries to support and build up a scientifically supported model that shows the carbon bamboo accumulates qualifies for CERs and REDD.

3. Fleshing out the plan: the 2nd “Bamboo in the CDM meeting”

- **Meeting aim:** To start developing methodologies and projects for bamboo in the CDM
- **Location:** Beijing, China. 3 – 5 November 2008

4. Proposed Inter-Governmental Meeting

- Information and data from technical working group will be brought together to an intergovernmental meeting that we would organize, possibly in 2010
- Key organizations who are part of the Bali process should be invited including IFAD, WB, UNEP and other interested parties

So, please join us!