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Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik

German Development
Institute

The Ethics of Biofuels

Public lecture and expert discussion on the biofuels report of the
Nuffield Council on Bioethics

12 December 2011, 17:00 – 19:30

German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)



The Ethics of Biofuels

Public lecture and expert discussion on the biofuels report of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics

Monday, 12 December 2011
17:00 h (in English)

German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)
Tulpenfeld 6, 53113 Bonn

Biofuels have become extremely controversial in recent years. They are promoted in many developed as well as developing countries as capable of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promote rural development and ensure energy security. However, these positive claims are highly contested, with specific concerns over the risk of growing food insecurity, land grabs, forest and biodiversity loss and other negative social and ecological effects being attributed to biofuels promotion policies.

Against this backdrop, the Nuffield Council on Bioethics – a renowned UK-based independent body that examines and reports on ethical issues in biology and medicine - has recently published a [report on biofuels](#). In this report the Nuffield Council establishes ethical criteria for biofuels development and proposes a framework to guide current and future policies for biofuel development.

The lecture and expert discussion will critically discuss the state of public support for biofuels in the transport sector against the framework outlined by the report. Alena Buyx, Co-Author of the report will present the main findings and arguments and engage in a panel and open discussion with policymakers, members of civil society, private sector and academia. Participants will discuss whether the ethical framework reflects the critical issues concerning biofuels for development as viewed by different stakeholders, and in how far such ethical principles are able to guide appropriate policies. Discussants will also debate whether current policy developments, including the development of biofuel certification schemes are effective in assuring positive socio-ecological and ethical effects of biofuel policies.

The lectures and expert rounds will be open to the public but especially aim to draw participants from governmental, research, civil society, and private sector who are familiar with the issues and can provide input during discussions.

Participation is open and not restricted to pre-registration, but it would be convenient for the organizers if you could confirm your participation to biofuels@die-gdi.de in advance. For further inquiries please contact Michael Brüntrup (michael.bruentrup@die-gdi.de), Raoul Herrmann (raoul.herrmann@die-gdi.de) or Clara Brandi (clara.brandi@die-gdi.de).

A second event will take place in Berlin on 13 December 2011. For further information, please contact Anna Neumann (anna.neumann@ioew.de).

Programme

17:00 h **Introductory Remarks**

Michael Brüntrup, DIE

Guest lecture:

The Nuffield Council Report – Ethical guidelines for biofuel development

Alena Buyx, Nuffield Council on Bioethics

18.00 h **Panel debate and open discussion**

Alena Buyx, Nuffield Council on Bioethics

Heike Ostermann, GIZ (German International Cooperation Agency)

Carolin Callenius, Brot für die Welt

Elmar Baumann, Verband der Deutschen Biokraftstoffindustrie e. V.

Kavitha Gotru, Indian Civil Accounts Service (currently DIE)

Norbert Schmitz, meó Consulting Team

Aaron Leopold, Institute for Latin American Studies (Freie Universität Berlin)

19.15 h **Concluding remarks**

Michael Brüntrup, DIE

Your directions to the German Development Institute /
Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

Tulpenfeld 6
D - 53113 Bonn

From Bonn Central Station (*Hauptbahnhof*):

Take the U-Bahn U 16/ U 63 or U 66 to "Heussallee/Museumsmeile". Take the exit Heussallee. Turn right after 50 m onto the footpath towards the office complex 'Tulpenfeld'. Follow the signs across Tulpenfeld to the building of DIE at Tulpenfeld 6.

The buses No. 610 and 611 run from the train station Bonn *Hauptbahnhof* to the bus stop "Heussallee/Museumsmeile". Turn onto the footpath towards the office complex 'Tulpenfeld'. Follow the signs across Tulpenfeld to the building of DIE at Tulpenfeld 6.



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