

## **Workshop: digital trust and POME-biofuel supply chains**

*Monday 6 October, online*

### **Agenda**

- Introduction - Loes Knotter (Platform Hernieuwbare Brandstoffen)
- Tour de table: latest status of POME-biofuels in European Member States
- Status update on digital trust project and implication for POME-based biofuels - Max Delissen (RVO)
- Report of recent visit to palm oil mill in Indonesia - Dr. ir. Wolter Elbersen (Wageningen University & Research)
- Discussion: proposal from Platform Hernieuwbare Brandstoffen
- Closing

### **Introduction – Loes Knotter (PHB)**

- Improving transparency and digital trust are core themes that the Dutch Platform Renewable Fuels is working on.
- This is in line with the previous work that the Platform has developed when we took part in the Dutch Blockchain Coalition.
- This has been followed by an innovation project by RVO, NOVE with TNO and NEN to develop a Clean Fuel Contract protocol in the organisational wallet structure.
- As a further follow up, we organised a workshop to explore how this digital trust instrument could be used to increase transparency in the POME-biofuel supply chain with the goal to set up an innovation project.

### **Status update on the use of POME in the European Member States**

- Several Member States are becoming concerned with POME biofuels.
- Germany and Ireland will ban POME as a feedstock which would have significant implication for the renewable fuel sector.
- The Dutch government replied on updates of the 996 to Europe that they should not ban the use of palm oil-based feedstocks but strengthen the role of certification.
- This points to the urgency to increase the transparency to create more trust in these supply chains.
- A question on the role of the UDB to increase transparency was raised. It was discussed that the UDB is mainly ensuring that double claims are avoided but does not have a role on the feedstock claims.
- Physical tests to check the renewable content are being advocated. Method are currently being developed by WUR – aimed at UCO and possible other products.

- The Platform sees that there needs to be a discussion and clarity on public supervision. The question we aim to answer is: how do we keep track of the volumes of POME.

### **Status update on digital trust project – Max Delissen (RVO)**

- The Clean Fuel Contracts pilot project aims to establish an information system for renewable fuels as they are traveling down the supply chain.
- Especially from the point when fuels are delivered to the market at the retail point, it is difficult to make claims as that part of the supply chain is not supervised.
- With a certain level of control, the system aims to ensure that the data can be transferred along the chain in a way that it is trustworthy and to avoid double claiming by end-users in the market.
- Implication for POME-biofuels: information on POME could be passed on to guarantee the quantity of renewability.
- RVO together with the NEN is working on developing a standardised protocol for digital trade events for renewable fuels and how data can be transferred. Accredited parties will be able to access the data. By the end of the year, the protocol should be published by the Dutch CEN: the NEN.

### **Report of recent visit to palm oil mill in Indonesia - Dr. ir. Wolter Elbersen (WUR)**

- The presentation was made on the basis of findings in the SustainPalm programme and the MesOil project and visits to mills in Indonesia and Malaysia and consultations with experts in Malaysia, Indonesia and Colombia.
- Wolter Elbersen from Wageningen University and Research (WUR) presented his insights from a recent visit to palm oil mills in Indonesia in the context of a project that they are conducting on palm oil residues and increasing sustainability.
- In his presentation, Wolter shared information on palm oil mills and the fresh fruit bunches that they process.
- Along the processing chain as palm oil is being extracted, a number of by-products/ residues are being produced: Mesocarp fibre, POME, empty fruit bunches which contain residue oil
- Empty fruit bunches are usually burnt or mulched but they can also be pressed to obtain a liquor and oil.
- Wolter provided insights on how much oil can be extracted from the 3 different types of palm oil residues.
- Distinguishing between the origin of the different oils should not be difficult, because there are only about 2000 palm oil mills worldwide often owned by large corporations.
- Quick methods can be developed to distinguish residue oils from virgin and to anticipate possible fraud.
- He explained that the current distinction between EFB oil and POME oil may not match practices in the industry. Part of the EFB oil may end up in POME. In general Sludge oil is collected which may become part of POME.
- He also explained the clear sustainability benefits of collecting residue oil from the 3 palm mill residues mainly related to a reduction of GHG emissions.
- Wolter describes the next steps for to strengthen the information in this supply chain. He mentions that with a better understanding of the origin of palm-oil based product, as well as developing a library of CPO and residues oil so we can better anticipate irregularities. Another important aspect is to assess the readiness at mills level for mobilisation (for instance the infrastructure and technology availability around the mill).



## Setting up an innovation project for POME-biofuels

- The Platform has been looking for a budget to carry out a small follow up research project on the topic.
- The project aims to shed light on the type of information available and data points that could be relevant to connect to a digital infrastructure to increase trust in POME based biofuels.
- This would help the sector strengthen their information position and be better prepared when faced with irregularity.
- A protocol could be developed for palm-based feedstocks to understand what type of mill they are coming from, which technology was used to process it, the size of the plant etc.
- The project aims to look at the how: can we have a better overview; can we perform a better risk assessment of POME-based biofuels.
- Participants from Argent, ISCC, WUR and RVO were interested in joining the steering committee for this project.

