

SAWTEE, the project and expectations

*Standardization Workshop on Strengthening
Institutional Capacity on Sustainability Criteria for
Bioenergy*

Venue: The Everest Hotel, Kathmandu

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About SAWTEE

- South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) was launched in 1994 as a loose regional network of non-governmental organizations from five South Asian countries: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
- In 1999, SAWTEE was registered with The District Administration Office, Kathmandu, Nepal to operate as a regional non-profit, non-governmental organization.
- Motto: “Globalization yes, but with safety nets”

About SAWTEE (contd..)

- Activities: Range from sensitization and awareness building to independent and concrete policy research and advocacy, as well as capacity building on trade, economic and environmental issues at local, national, regional as well as international levels
 - conferences, seminars, policy dialogues, consultation meetings, talk programmes, monthly forums and interaction programmes
 - publication and distribution of policy briefs, briefing papers, and issue papers, regular magazine (*Trade Insight*)
 - Trainings, workshops, monthly forums, information dissemination, internship programmes etc.

Programme on trade and climate change

- Beginning 2008, in collaboration with various partners, organized a series of events on issues of trade, climate change, poverty and food security
 - Civil Society Forum on Responding to Food Insecurity in South Asia
 - South Asian Civil Society Consultation on Trade, Climate Change and Food Security: Agenda for Copenhagen
 - International Dialogue on Trade, Poverty and Climate Change
- Currently, a regional project on trade, climate change and food security continuing

Rationale for the project on sustainability criteria for bioenergy

- Increasingly important role of bioenergy for energy supply in the world; but there are challenges
- A new ISO standard in the process of being developed to create common global guidelines for sustainability criteria within the fields of climate good, environment, economy, social consequences and indirect consequences of bioenergy production
- Need to enhance the institutional and technical capability of developing countries, including in South and Southeast Asia regions, to handle the great variety of climate standards, certification and labelling systems
- Standardization key to international trade

Expectations from the workshop

- Effective participation and substantive comments on the new ISO work on sustainability criteria for bioenergy
- Capacity enhancement of all the participants, and more so of those who would be participating in the pre-seminar and ISO meetings in Frankfurt
- In the longer term, continuity of such exercises in the region

THANK YOU