Considering the above issues related to barriers to the replication of the Brazilian biofuels program in other DCs, the most significant lessons learned from the Brazilian experience include the adequate choice for biofuels crops, through the establishment of an agroenvironmental-economic zoning to define the best areas for food and fuel production, ensuring food security and contributing to rural development (not only through the creation of jobs in rural areas but also through the increase of energy access from sugarcane bagasse) (Goldemberg 2009). Developing countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia have the potential to produce the needed raw material and to produce ethanol and biodiesel, and the exploitation of such resources could be quite fast through technology transfer. However, for this process to be successful two main steps are needed: adequate local incentive policies and foreign financing for the projects (and for capacity building where needed). It should be pointed out here that, when discussing the best regions for each crop, the use of Jatropha curcas in large-scale plantations should be carefully evaluated, because there are not yet enough varieties to insure against disease and losses, according to the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation/Embrapa (Sato et al. 2009).

Many DCs (mainly in Africa and Asia) have a small internal market but have land and climate adequate for the production of biofuels. The production of biofuels to be exported to industrialized countries could stimulate rural development, generate jobs, increase energy access, and reduce poverty. Preconditions for that include the need for capacity building to master the technologies required both in the agricultural and industrial areas.

Assistance from other DCs, such as Brazil or India, which have important activities in sugarcane production (either for sugar or ethanol), could be very fruitful in this case, fostering South–South cooperation.

The introduction of a bioethanol activity in DCs should in all cases be preceded by a proper agronomic ecological zoning to identify producing areas, in order to respond to frequent criticism that biofuels production does not comply with certification criteria appropriate to local conditions. Such arguments can in reality be interpreted as non-tariff protectionism adopted by some countries in Europe and the US, to protect non-competitive agro-industrial activities in their home countries.