

Production and Supply Logistics of Sugarcane as an Energy Feedstock

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Many developing countries, mostly in Africa and Asia, have a small internal market for biofuels 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 the development of biofuels in developing countries include capacity building to master the technologies required both in the agricultural and industrial areas. Assistance from other developing countries, 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 developing countries 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 appropriate certification criteria to local conditions. Such arguments can in reality be interpreted as nontariff protectionism barriers adopted by some countries in Europe and the United States, to protect noncompetitive agroindustrial activities in their countries. The experience of Brazil with sugarcane production and logistics, as discussed in this chapter, could be significant for other countries that are interested in developing local biofuel programs