

EBB Press Release

**A step towards reality:
Reconciling Food Security and Bioenergy**



On June 16th, the report "[Reconciling food security and bioenergy: priorities for action](#)" ⁽¹⁾, produced by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) – together with the World Bank, the Delft University, the Centre for Environmental Policy of the Imperial College London, amongst others – concludes that **concerns over food supply insecurity, as a result of cultivation of biofuels feedstock, are largely misplaced**. It says "*...well-designed biofuels usage programmes can simultaneously improve food security in countries with populations at risk of under nourishment, and in more developed economies.*"

The IFPRI's MIRAGE model was used by the European Commission in 2012 to justify its policy to address Indirect Land-Use Change (ILUC) caused by biofuels. These calculations played a key role in justifying the 7% cap for first generation biofuels by the EU in Directive (EU) 2015/1513.

This new report concludes that food and bioenergy do not need to compete for land, and recognizes the positive effects of biofuels use in providing jobs and resulting economic growth. The report states that **properly regulated biofuels production can lead to heightened energy security, not just in transport — which in itself can provide wider access to domestic markets, boosting jobs and services — but also in improving food processing and storage**. The report adds "*simplistic global analyses, headlines, and cartoons that blame biofuels for food insecurity may reflect good intentions but mislead the public and policy makers.*"

To address any concerns with indirect effects from biofuels, the report considers that **good governance** should be at the centre of future biofuels crop cultivation. This includes a number of recommended practices such as using the correct feedstock crops, set prices high enough to incentivise local production, and a focus on the needs of local populations.

Reacting to the report, Mr Raffaello Garofalo, EBB Secretary General, said: "*the European approach to ILUC is based on the idea that an increase in biofuel production would reduce food supply and increase food prices, thereby contributing to increased hunger. We are pleased to welcome a comprehensive report gathering evidence that refutes most assumptions underlying this hypothesis, and concluding that, despite a rapid increase in food production, there is no evidence of biofuel impacts on food-related health.*"

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The **European Biodiesel Board (EBB)** is a non-profit organisation established in January 1997. Today, EBB gathers 60 members across 21 Member-States, which represents 75% of the European output. Biodiesel is the main European solution to reduce emissions from transport and dependence on imported oil. EBB aims to promote the use of biodiesel in the European Union and is committed to fulfil International standards for sustainability in GHG emissions and sustainable feedstock. EBB is constantly working towards the development of improved and greener technologies.

¹ <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcbb.12366/full>