

AN AFRICAN BIOGAS ROAD SHOW

CONCEPT NOTE OCTOBER 2019

Introduction

As countries race to meet their climate targets under the Paris agreement, the potential of biogas to achieve around 10-12% reductions in GHG emissions is highlighted in the July 2019 WBA report, the Global Potential of Biogas. The WBA believes that less economically developed nations offer huge potential for biogas growth to contribute economic, environmental and energy security benefits by utilizing the vast feedstocks available from agri-industrial sources and addressing the irregularity of energy supplies from national grids. With deteriorating soils and increased global demand for food production, the carbon-free, organic fertilizer produced by biogas plants has significant economic value to sustainably improving land quality returning nutrients, water and organic matter back to the land.

In many African nations thousands of small-scale biogas installations can be found in households, rural communities and farms. What are not common are the more industrial sized plants. There are many barriers to industrial scale investments such as lack of knowledge, grid connection and electricity sale challenges, poor management of projects, financing, technology availability and support. But there are also very significant drivers, such as the intermittence of energy supply, the public health need to improve biodegradable waste management and the declining productivity of soils. Of specific interests in this sense are agri-industrial complexes working in industries such as brewing, meat, dairy, tobacco, sugar, that require continuous energy supplies and have the feedstocks themselves to power AD plants as well as the land to use the digestate fertilizer these produce.

The WBA believes its role as a global organization is to help the development of the industry in Africa to the benefit of its membership and local communities helping them achieve climate change and sustainability goals.

Proposal

The WBA therefore proposes to organize the first of a series of roadshow events to Ghana in the week 2-8 March 2020. This will be followed by further events focusing on other African regions such as East Africa and Southern Africa. The roadshow will showcase the potential of biogas and the opportunities of developing a successful and vibrant AD industry across the continent which fits national, regional and corporate ambitions. Subsequent roadshow events will be organized in the future and future roadshow host countries include Zambia and Kenya.

Ghana is a forward thinking and successful economy which has established policies and a business culture looking to adopt biogas technologies and services to improve the lives of its citizens and play its part in tackling climate change.

The format involves a 6-hour meeting including presentations from local industries, finance houses and WBA members showcasing best practice and experiences. Breakfast/lunch/dinner will give time for networking. Meetings can take place in high quality hotel meeting conference rooms and aim for a maximum participation of 50 people. According to the interest in the build up to the event businesses and decision makers can meet WBA members by appointment either the day before or the day after the event. Previous conferences and trade shows have benefited by visiting facilities and sites nearby to demonstrate the opportunities first-hand. These can be arranged depending on the involvement and interest of the host country and can form part of the formal roadshow schedule.

Speakers from WBA will include companies offering DBO services; independent development services;

technology suppliers; case study operators.

Each attendee will be given a short time to present their company and services/products whilst longer presentations will be given by the WBA and local representatives outlining the challenges and opportunities in Ghana.

Target audiences

The road show aims to be operative and not political in nature. We will therefore target industrial sectors where the logic of feedstocks on one hand and energy and fertility needs on the other give a compelling case for biogas. In order to complete the interest to investors, the banks and investment funds, development banks and agencies will be invited; large scale or multinational businesses involved in the agri-industries; corporate size building and construction companies; energy managers; supply chain businesses.

Ambition

The ambition from this roadshow is to create real partnerships for change that intend to implement biogas projects in their respective jurisdictions. Securing partnership agreements, commercial arrangements and project collaborations are all part of the aim to deliver the positive benefits of a biogas economy. This will benefit national and regional economies, the environment and help towards the 13% GHG reduction target the global biogas industry can achieve. The roadshow will create new business for members with a range of partners in Africa; doing business in Africa will improve energy security and supply, improve waste management and human health and deliver new jobs in a new industry.

Costs

Each WBA member taking part in the Road Show will pay WBA a fee of £2000 for the organization, the meeting location, food and refreshments. There is no cost for local delegates to participate.

Organisation

The WBA will organize the roadshow in collaboration with local partners. Each WBA participant pays their own costs (travel/hotel). Local participation is by invitation only and is free of charge. Costs such as meals, roadshow venue/meeting rooms etc will be paid for by sponsorship.

Participation

All WBA members are invited to participate. All participants will be invited to participate in all the meetings, the one to one meetings, and the site visits as well as all the networking experiences. All WBA members will be able to bring printed information on their company.

Programme (subject to variation according to flight schedules)

Sunday 2 March arrival Accra, Ghana

Monday 3 Pre-event meetings/tours/site visits

Tuesday 4 March (day) Roadshow event (venue to be confirmed) & dinner for event attendees

Wednesday 5 Post-event meetings/tours/site visits

Thursday 6 March return home