

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 its first five-day roadshow to selected African nations in the week 2-8 March 2020 to showcase the potential of biogas and the opportunities of developing the AD industry across the continent. Further such events will be organized in the future.

The countries include: Zambia , Kenya and Ghana.

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.

Speakers from WBA will include companies offering DBO services; independent development services; technology suppliers; case study operators.

There will be a maximum of 8 presentations from various stakeholders and actors leaving ample time for networking. We estimate that 4 to 6 of these are WBA members and 4 to 6 are local representatives (industry, finance) each speaking around 15 minutes, leaving time for debate, networking etc.



Target audiences

The road shows aim 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 partnerships for change that intend to implement biogas projects in their respective jurisdictions. This will benefit the environment and help towards the 12% GHG reduction target the global biogas industry can achieve; will create new business for members with partners in Africa; create economy and business in Africa and improve energy and waste management there.

Sponsorship

The WBA is a not for profit association. Its activities are in the interests of environmental protection and members development. In order to pay the costs relative to the organization of this tour, its overheads and staff costs, WBA seeks sponsorship from interested companies and entities whose ambitions match those of the association.

Organisation

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

Participation

All WBA members will be invited to participate. Given that speaking opportunities in a one-day meeting will be limited to about 4/6 WBA members, those who speak in the 3 meetings will be decided once participation is confirmed.

Programme (subject to variation according to flight schedules)

Sunday 2 March arrival Lusaka Zambia
Monday 3 March Zambia meeting
Tuesday 4 March transfer to Nairobi Kenya
Wednesday 5 March Kenya meeting
Thursday 6 March transfer to Accra Ghana
Friday 7 March Ghana meeting
Saturday/Sunday 8/9 March return home