

Background

Commendation of the five best EU-RED-compliant sustainability standards

The aireg working group on 'Sustainability' has developed a set of sustainability criteria for alternative fuels, encompassing the three pillars of sustainability (ecology, economy, society; see also aireg strategy paper, 2012, <http://bit.ly/1Hvh87P>). These criteria have been classified as "major musts" or "minor musts" depending on their currently assessable relevance for the evaluation of sustainable alternative energy carriers for aviation. "Major musts" reflect those criteria that should be regarded as fundamental criteria in any sustainability standard. "Minor musts" cover additional relevant aspects of sustainability. However, their importance is secondary to "major musts". According to their relevance "minor musts" are weighted from 1 to 5 points.

Results

The evaluation results in a share which represents the conformity of the individual sustainability standard's criteria with the aireg set of criteria. Based on these shares, we classified the sustainability standards in thresholds of compliance of 50%, 75% and 95%.

1. No standard currently fulfills the requirements of the highest category (95-100%), in order to be approved as best sustainability standard by aireg.
2. Currently second-best sustainability standards (75-95% conformity) are:
 - International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC EU)
 - Netherlands Technical Agreement (NTA 8080)
 - Roundtable of Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB EU RED)
 - Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO-RED)
3. Currently third-best sustainability standard (conformity 50-75%) is:
 - Roundtable for Responsible Soy (RTRS EU RED)

With the results of the gap analysis between the set of aireg sustainability criteria and the 10 analysed sustainability standards at hand, aireg recommends to use the currently second-best standards for a certification of alternative energy carriers for aviation.

At the same time aireg intends to give a stimulus for all sustainability standards to refine their set of criteria and ensure a continuous appraisal process in order to safeguard an incremental improvement of ecologic, economic and societal sustainability during the production of alternative aviation fuels.

Analysis

A gap analysis has been carried out between the aireg set of criteria and ten sustainability certification systems which are in line with the EU-RED and approved by the European

Commission (see assessment report of schemes, European Commission, status April 1st, 2013, http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/biofuels/sustainability_schemes_en.htm).

These are in detail:

- Biomass Biofuels voluntary scheme (2BSvs)
- International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC EU)
- Netherlands Technical Agreement (NTA 8080)
- RED Bioenergy Sustainability Assurance Scheme (RBSA)
- RED Tractor Farm Assurance Standard for Crops and Sugar Beet (RED Tractor)
- Renewable Energy Directive Certification System (REDcert)
- Roundtable of Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB EU RED)
- Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO-RED)
- Roundtable for Responsible Soy (RTRS EU RED)
- Scottish Quality Farm Assured Combinable Crops Voluntary Scheme (SQC)

The gap analysis provides an up-to-date overview and is based on sustainability standards which are approved by the European Commission approved and that are relevant for the certification of HEFA products (Hydrotreated Esters and Fatty Acids). The dynamic development of the individual sustainability standards and sustainability certification systems requires a repeated examination and evaluation, which is now possible with the tools at hand.

Metric of the analysis

The evaluation of sustainability standards was conducted in a multi-step-approach: Using the previously mentioned analysis, the conformity of ecological, economic and societal criteria of the sustainability standards and the aireg set of criteria were calculated with a marking grid for “major musts” and “minor musts”. Pursuant to this score, the share of conformity of the individual sustainability standard in relation to the score of the aireg set of criteria was calculated.

| | | <u>aireg set of criteria</u> | |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | major must | minor must |
| <u>sustainability standard</u> | major must | 1 | [0.5;0.6;0.7;0.8;0.9] for minor must scores = [1;2;3;4;5] |
| | minor must | 0.5 | [0.5;0.6;0.7;0.8;0.9] for minor must scores = [1;2;3;4;5] |
