

# CURES: Citizens United for Renewable energy and Sustainability



## INVITATION AND NOTICE

### **The CURES Biofuels Capacity Building and Policy Workshop Maputo, Mozambique, 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008, and the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels regional consultation on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

#### **Background:**

Citizens United for Renewable Energies and Sustainability (C U R E S) - a network of NGOs and CBOs around the world calling for ambitious programs to promote renewable energies, is facilitating a programme to develop common policy on biofuels and related trade policy that deals with food security and sustainable development for civil society in the SADC region. It is doing this work with the support of the Southern Africa Trust. The meeting will be hosted and coordinated by CURES southern Africa and will focus on 9 countries in Southern Africa.

The overall programme supported by the Southern Africa Trust aimed to run 2 regional policy workshops and 2 regional capacity building workshops on bio energy and biofuels on the SADC region. The workshops are used to identify locally based stakeholder organisations that are involved in bio energy and biofuels in the region who can help with compiling information and comment on policy papers. The workshops are also used to assess progress, build shared understandings, build capacity and knowledge and develop policy. All work will be fed directly into regional and international processes in order to impact on biofuel policy development in SADC and give effect to the voice of the poor.

#### **The main objectives of the programme are to:**

- Build capacity within civil society and small scale farmers to engage in the biofuels and trade debates in the region
- Develop policy positions on biofuels and biofuel trade certification policy based on field studies and research that can be implemented successfully by small scale farmers and rural communities to reduce poverty and improve rural local economic development

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The programme will be implemented through a networking, workshop and participatory process, as well as the development of 2 policy position papers 1) food security & rural economic development 2) trade and certification.

CURES Southern Africa held its first Biofuels capacity building and policy workshop in Johannesburg in March 2008 in partnership with the International Round Table on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) an initiative of the EPFL in Switzerland which held its Southern Africa meeting to look at to debate and consider draft principles and criteria that will be used to guide all stakeholders involved in biofuel production towards more sustainable practise.

This invitation is to participate in the second follow-up Biofuels Capacity building and policy workshop of CURES Southern Africa to be held from the 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008 in Maputo, Mozambique. This will again be held in partnership with the international Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) , an initiative of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), which aims to develop standards for biofuel production (please see attached pamphlet on the RSB) . On the two days when we will partner with the RSB, on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August, the delegate composition will be expanded to include other stakeholders such as industry and governments, to consider the principles and criteria that have been drafted in the global process and considered by the Steering Board of the RSB which met in Switzerland in June 2008.

### **Biofuels Capacity Building and Policy Workshop, and the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) regional consultation 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008, Maputo, Mozambique**

CURES will be running the second in its two capacity building and participatory workshops in the Southern African region on biofuels, trade and food security from the 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August 2008 in Maputo, Mozambique. It will also host a policy formulation meeting for NBGo, CBOs and small scale farmers and small scale biofuel producers on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008 where the two draft papers on food security and trade will be presented for comments and inputs. The 28<sup>th</sup> August will be spent jointly with the RSB to further consider the principles and criteria that have been developed over the past year (see attached sheet and view at <http://energycenter.epfl.ch/biofuels>.) On the 29<sup>th</sup> August consideration will be given to two areas of work that are of special interest. complementing and additional work of the RSB. These will be to look at issues that relate specifically to *jatropha curcas* and issues relating to high conservation value areas and the use of underutilised and degraded land.

- DAY 1 - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2008, 14h: 00 – 18h: 00. This will be the opening session for the CURES workshop. There will be presentations on various topics with a view to build a common understanding and knowledge base amongst participants.
- DAY 2 - Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2008, 09h: 00 – 17h: 00 will be a continuation of day 1. The morning session will be focused generally on biomass and bio-energy production with presentations from various regional partners. In the afternoon a special session to look at the potential for biogas generation will be held with expert speakers in attendance.

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- DAY 3 - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008, 9h00 – 17h00 will be a session dedicated to the draft papers on food security and bio-energy and trade. Participants will be involved in an interactive process to consider the draft papers and make their inputs.
- DAY 4 - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2008, 9h00 – 17h00 will be a joint meeting of the NGO and CBO network of CURES Southern Africa and the international Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB). The purpose of this workshop is to hear presentations on the draft principles and criteria that have been developed with the RSB steering board and to make comments on them. ***A separate programme for this meeting will be sent once you have confirmed your attendance***
- DAY 5 – Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> August from 9h00 – 13h00 – this day will be dedicated to two themes that will be run in parallel sessions. The first will be on *Jatropha curcas* and the second will be on high conservation value areas and the use of degraded and underutilised land for bio-energy production.

### **Who should attend?**

#### **Day 1 – 3 CURES workshop**

The previous CURES workshop was restricted to CBOs and NGOs, but in this workshop we will provide space for private sector and government. In most instances we will only fund attendance of CBOs and NGOs but we may extend this offer to highly relevant and interested government officials from least developed nations. We will appreciate the attendance of private sector who can fund their own attendance and a nominal fee to cover costs in the workshop will be applied.

**DAY 4 and 5 RSB workshop** – will be funded jointly by RSB and CURES. Costs for the two days at the venue will be covered through this funding, CURES will support their CBO and NGO (and some government) representatives to stay on and attend the workshop. Private sector will be expected to pay for their travel and accommodation & BB/dinner costs.

The following will be supported by CURES: NGOs, CBOS, small scale farmers and government officials from the following countries (South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana ) who:

- Need and want to learn about biofuels
- Will be able to make use of the information within their programmes and organisations
- Are interested in developing small scale farming approaches and will be involved in lobby, advocacy and implementation
- Can help with information on projects and programmes in their country for the case studies as part of the CURES programme and
- Would be prepared to continue commenting on the two CURES policy papers to be developed on food security and trade.

***Please Note: The number of participants for the workshop is limited.***

## **Financial arrangements**

CURES will cover the following costs of the invited participants:

- An economy class round-trip to the venue, which may not necessarily be an airfare, but may be road travel for countries located closer to Mozambique.

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- All conferences costs such as lunches and teas for all five days of participation
- Overnight accommodation, breakfast, and set dinner in the hotel from the 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008 incl (we will make provision for those who due to flight or travel schedules can only arrive on the 24<sup>th</sup>). For the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, these costs will be covered by joint RSB/CURES funding.
- Transfers to and from airport or bus terminal.
- Transfers to and from the conference and hotels

CURES will ***not pay a per diem or stipend*** to all those who will be participating in the workshop and the RSB consultation, nor will it cover any additional costs above those mentioned herein.

### **Travel arrangements**

Participants are responsible for obtaining any necessary visas for Mozambique or transit countries. Where feasible, participants are asked to make their own arrangements to travel to Mozambique, for reimbursement by CURES during the workshop. However, such reimbursement will require you to secure three quotes for travel, provide us with your boarding passes and invoices from the travel agent or internet booking.

I would be grateful if you could send us your personal and travel details no later than 19<sup>th</sup> July 2008, to Dorah Lebelo by fax on +27 011 702 2272 or by e-mail on [dorah@cures.org.za](mailto:dorah@cures.org.za).