

Are Bioenergy crops different from other cash crops?

Can food crops compete fairly with
bioenergy crops?

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Overview

Food Security basics

What is different?

Competition model

Questioning the competition model

Collaboration model

Conclusions

Food security

Food security issues of concern

- Food availability, access, stability and use
- Fluctuations and increases in food commodity prices
- Food availability at times of crisis
- Restrictions on access to markets
- Tradeoffs in different bioenergy systems as regards rural employment, income opportunities

What is different?

- BE crops are mostly known agriculture or forestry crops
- BE crops are either food, bioenergy or multi-functional crops
- Markets (prices) are (more?) volatile
(determined by political events > than by harvests)
- Investment is very high
- Large scale developments and very fast
- Climate Change concerns are new (politically)
resulting in targets and additional earning options (Carbon credits)

What is different?

- For the poor and food insecure it is not a question of fossil fuel substitution, but **ACCESS** to energy and food
- This is not a new situation
- Can energy cash crops change that now?
- Will import substitution or export earnings go to the poor and food insecure or to other interest groups?

Competition between food and energy production

- Is it primarily competition for resources?
- or competition between interest groups?

Large scale bioenergy (investors) versus hungry poor?

Energy industry versus land insecure?
Rich fuel consumers vs poor food consumers?

Can this be fair competition?

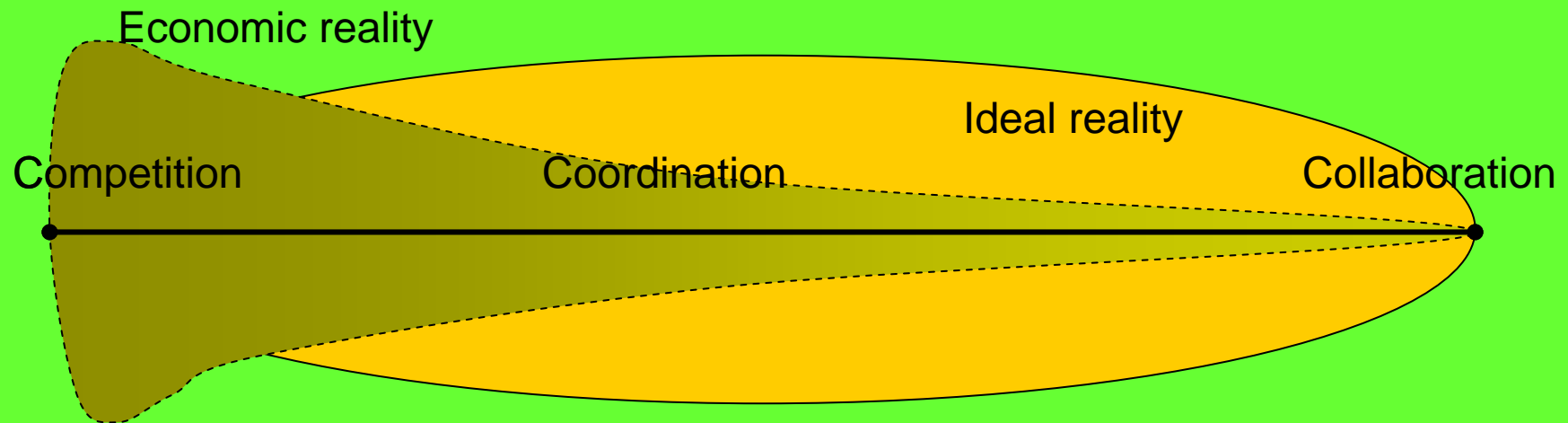
Collaboration

To increase fairness there need to be participation

- in decision making
- in implementation/execution and
- in results.

Competition or collaboration?

- Competition will not create such fairness sufficiently or sustainably
- Collaboration may



Competition model

- Competition creates winners and losers
- Current economic system is based on competition (“free” market) =>
it will always create winners and losers
- control of this system becomes more difficult and costlier with time and fails in many (most?) countries

Collaboration model

- Collaboration is not a new idea, it just seems to be loosing in an increasingly competitive environment
- Early economies and many indigenous societies were built on collaborative models (or include both competitive and collaborative parts)
 - families, communities, early city states, Bali, alternative currencies

Collaboration model

Collaboration requires

- wide participation (across sectors and social levels)
- supportive environment
 - certain degree of protection, tutoring and capacities,
 - a collaborative currency, i.e. a mode of exchange accessible also to the economically weak and fostering collaboration
 - participatory research, knowledge and other action that aims to increase collaboration
- motivation – benefits
 - effective integration into decision making, implementation and benefit distribution systems
 - making a noticeable difference

Conclusions

- With all current efforts in Bioenergy and Food Security analysis, planning and policies, also the implementation phase needs a close look and new approaches,
 - particularly as concerns engagement (ownership) and benefit distribution
- In an increasingly competitive environment benefit distribution is skewed favouring the strongest, creating winners and losers
- For more equitable benefit distribution a strong collaborative environment will be highly beneficial

Conclusions

Competition versus Collaboration

- Competition of interests need to be transformed into collaboration (harmonization) for which deep participation of all shareholders is necessary (will reduce unfair competition for natural and economic resources)
- Collaboration needs to be given more room and mature attention at all levels
 - Supportive social, economic and knowledge environment for collaboration needs to be created to assure its survival in a continued competitive world (protection, help, guidance, means)
 - Capacitation and integration of participatory processes at various levels
 - Collaborative differences and agreements need to be respected

Conclusions

Whether competition or collaboration, quality data and knowledge systems will be needed for informed decision making =>

- create data and knowledge systems for specific situations
- create situations/environments where best data and knowledge can be applied
- create data and knowledge systems that support collaborative processes

Conclusions

Improvement comes from:

- better information and understanding
- better collaboration, win-win, sharing

Together they may create sustainability

Collaboration

- reduces food security risk of any type of bioenergy development
- improves equitability of benefit distribution
- improves social responsibility and capital

giving sustainability a chance

Collaboration will create synergies from
knowledge and action that benefit

Food Security, Bioenergy, Environment
and
Human well-being

Invitation

to continue excellence in data and knowledge creation, including that needed for collaboration

to extend collaboration to even deeper levels and wider shareholder groups across more sectors

to spend more efforts in creating, revitalizing and supporting the collaboration needed that allows us to use our knowledge and capacities in the most effective ways to assure that Bioenergy development contributes to the well-being of all

“The worst realities of our age are manufactured realities.

It is therefore our task, as creative participants in the universe to redream our world.

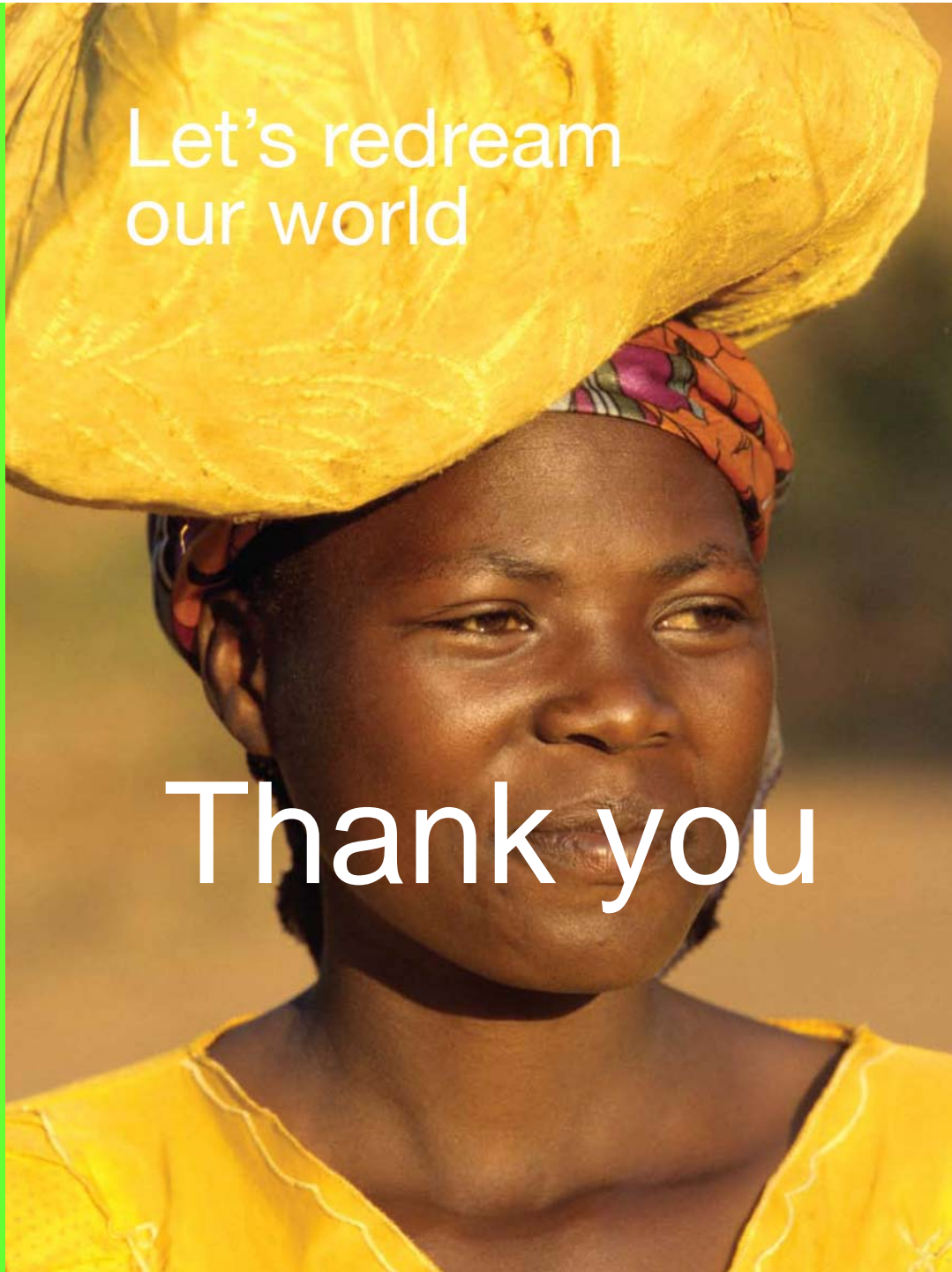
Let's redream our world

Thank you

The fact of possessing imagination means that everything can be redreamed.

Each reality can have its alternative possibilities.”

Ben Okri



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