Sustainable Together: Biomass and bioenergy in low-income countries – meeting SDGs

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Vicious cycles: an example from Ethiopia





Bringing it all together: an example from Rwanda

Biomass demand:

- 3.2 Mton fuelwood (for direct use)
- 1.5 Mton fuelwood for charcoal prod. (0.226 Mton)
- 0.1 Mton construction wood

Total demand: 4.8 Mton out of which **4.2 Mton** is stemwood and branch wood

Sustainable **supply**: **3.2 Mton**

Gap: 0.9 Mton = 21%

Source: Drigo et al 2013



Some key variables	Unit	Rwanda
GDP (2013)	US\$	639
Population (now)	million	11.8
Population 2030	million	17.8
Population density	cap/km ²	477
Size of the country	Mkm ²	0.026
Cropland area	%	75.3
Forest area	%	18.4
Annual precipitation	mm/yr	1212
Average crop productivity (maize)	ton/ha	2.3
Electricity generation	MW	110
Access to electricity	%	11





Conclusions

- Biomass is a key component in the current energy systems and is likely to remain like that in large parts of the world in the near future
- In many low-income countries demand exceed supply, which tends to result in unsustainable use
- Bioenergy use impacts on water
- Potential to contibute positively to meeting several of the SDGs
- Warrants substantially more attention

