

Preface

Many countries worldwide are increasingly engaging in the promotion of biomass production for industrial uses such as biofuels and bio-products (chemicals, bio-plastics, etc.). Driven by the strong public debate on sustainability aspects, bio-energy is confronted with many environmental and socio-economic impacts. For instance, social impacts, which can be both positive and negative, include property rights, labor conditions, social welfare, economic wealth, poverty reduction, etc. Impacts are influenced by local and regional framework conditions under which bioenergy is produced. These include educational level, cultural aspects, history and economy of the producing countries, policies including environmental and social targets.

This book “Socio-Economic Impacts of Bioenergy Production” discusses impacts of the increasing global bioenergy demand from different perspectives. It illustrates the complexity of interrelated topics in the bioenergy value chain, ranging from agriculture to conversion processes, as well as from social implications to environmental effects. It furthermore gives an outlook on future challenges associated with the expected boom of a global bio-based economy, which contributes to the paradigm shift from a fossil based to a biomass and renewable energy based economy. Contributions to this book are based on the experience of selected authors from Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America, including researchers, investors, policy makers and other stakeholders such as representatives from NGOs.

The book is targeted towards policy makers, scientists, and NGOs in the fields of agriculture, forestry, biotechnology, and energy.

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