Donor country
Switzerland

Project/programme title
Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

Purpose
To contribute to sustainable production and international trade of biofuels
To contribute to the establishment of an international sustainability standard for biofuels

Recipient country	**Sector**	**Total funding**	**Years in operation**
Global	Biofuels	CHF 0.6 million	2005 - 2010

Description

Switzerland has a long-standing experience in the establishment of international sustainability standards for agricultural commodities (tropical timber; soy, cotton, coffee) through multi-stakeholder processes. Such standards base on a broad and systematic inclusion of all relevant stakeholders and aim at a standard which is private sector driven and thus supported by all important market players.

SECO programme for the sustainable use of biofuels consists of the following three components:

- Institutional capacity building for Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) of biofuels
- Structuring of an International Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels
- Quickcheck tool for biofuel producers to measure their environmental impact

Strategic partners are scientific institutes (including the Swiss Federal Institute for Material Research and Testing EMPA, and the Federal Technical University in Lausanne EPFL), biofuels producers, importers, governments and NGOs.

Indicate factors that led to project's success

- Training of partner countries (e.g. Brazil) in the establishment of an national Life Cycle Data base and the link with the most important European Life Cycle database, ecoinvent;
- Measuring of a concrete pilot case of biofuels, based on biofuel from organic and fair trade soy residues
- Delivery of an easy-to-handle and cost-free software for producers

Technology transferred

- Transfer of know-how regarding the establishment of Life Cycle databases
- Measuring software for biofuels LCA

Impact on greenhouse gas emissions/sinks

Not quantified.