

# Sustainability

A word so often used, but seldom explicitised. Everybody wants sustainable fuels, but few can explain what they actually mean. And what about all criteria that are proposed? Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB).

Not to mention all national standards, including RTFO, Cramer Criteria. And more to come. All very useful, but what is it to you? Did you have your business assessed? Any idea what your sustainability level is?



## Are you ready?

Maybe you are confident that your activities will be approved by RSPO, RSB and the like. Or maybe you feel that these standards are just paper tigers that best can be ignored. Would that be wise? Are you able to communicate your product's benefits when it comes to their impact on food availability, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions or local welfare? Not only your costumers - who knows they might not be really interested. But also to their costumers. And theirs, etc. Notwithstanding your personal views (or ours) on these platforms and commissions – or their rules, demands and regulations – they do exist. And they are likely to have an impact on your business, some way or another. While the exact outcome will remain obscure for a while, you might as well prepare yourself and your company.

## Do the test...

You can now have your business assessed. Biomass Research and Zero-e are not offering an extensive screening, which would require large staff efforts and take several months for preparation. On the contrary, we developed a basic sustainability report that is accessible and effective. You can get this report with a minimum of effort. Stepping in early may offer an advantage. Early tests are offered a considerable discount.

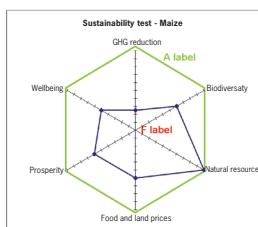
## ... and find out

Based on our business experience, working with you as producers, traders and users of biofuels, in cooperation with some of the key experts, we developed an easy to use sustainability test that provides general insight in the overall sustainability score of your company. All you need to do is fill in a brief questionnaire. Upon answering these questions, we will provide a general sustainability rating for your business. Contact us at [info@biomassresearch.eu](mailto:info@biomassresearch.eu) or [info@zero-e.nl](mailto:info@zero-e.nl), and we will inform how your product can be assessed easily and effectively. Don't wait. Check us today.

# Three examples

## Maize ethanol

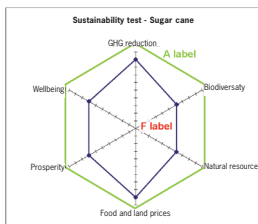
We assessed a typical case of maize ethanol produced, processed and sold in the US. Production is well organised and effective, but realises moderate energy yields or GHG reduction levels. It may affect biodiversity via indirect land use notably to compensate for reduced maize food or feed production. No competition for natural resources other than land is expected. Impact of maize ethanol on land or food prices (compared to traditional maize production) is limited, as are impact on (local) prosperity and wellbeing.



Summarizing: maize ethanol does not compete for natural resources, and scores relatively well on biodiversity, prosperity and food and land prices. GHG reduction is very modest. Maize is assigned four C-labels, indicating an average performance. Further score includes an A-label (little competition for natural resources), and an E-label (GHG emission reduction).

## Sugarcane ethanol

Brazilian cane ethanol scores well on GHG emission reduction (A-label). Large scale cane cultivation may impair local biodiversity through conversion of wetlands, while its high water demand may affect local water availability (C-label). No relation with increasing local food prices has been reported, and general impact on prosperity is clearly positive. Current cultivation practices (burning cane fields for defoliation) do, however, bring health risks.



Summarizing: cane shows high GHG reduction levels and causes little distress to local food and land prices. Other scores are average to good. Total score (two A-labels, two B-labels, two C-labels) is good.

## Waste oil biodiesel

Using waste material for biofuel production is generally considered the most preferable bioenergy alternative. It realises considerable GHG emission reductions while no negative impacts are reported. The effect on prosperity and wellbeing are positive but relatively small. The total score (four A-labels, plus a B- and a C-label) is impressive.

