

## Land resource conflicts due to renewable energies: How to consider the social dimension

### Data of Your Paper

#### Topic

Resources

#### Title of the Paper

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#### Form of Presentation

Presentation

#### Short Description (maximum 2500 characters)

In our days, it seems to be generally recognized that natural resources should be intensely used for renewable energy supply. But: Are we aware of the social costs this could implicate? To what extent do we accept that we create not only win-win situations but also losers? Most of the resources under question had not been unutilized before: they had been used for other purposes, by other people, by other means. As long as there are losers there will be conflicts around the use of these resources – at regional as well as international level.

This contribution focuses on the resource “land and soil” – a resource that is rather limited than renewable in itself. Food production, feed production, other industries and services (e.g. tourism), local people and investors compete with energy providers for the use of this resource, all of them interacting also with interests of authorities and NGOs. The availability or scarcity of land resources is very much linked to the issues of access to land, ways to use the land, land tenure regulations, and changes of land quality caused by forms of use (degeneration, sealing). It will increasingly be aggravated by climate change and adaptation measures to climate change.

In this paper we first discuss the complexity of land resource conflicts that are linked to renewable energy. We analyze the social components of these conflicts using examples at regional and international level (e.g. land grabbing, and the use of former agrarian land for biomass production for energy). Subsequently, based on experiences taken from research projects we will present and discuss two approaches how such resource conflicts may be prevented at the regional level: on the one hand, we will present a criteria supported methodology how planners, political decision makers, farmers, investors, plant operators may easily assess the social impact of a given or planned land use for renewable energy purposes. On the other hand, we will present the concept and the methodology how to foster - among the mentioned target groupsthe consideration of ethical issues when deciding on the use of land surfaces for biomass production for energy.