



CONCEPT NOTE

OVERVIEW

The continued production cuts of global crude oil supplies in 2021, following the COVID-19 pandemic, have, once again, highlighted the importance of a resilient production and supply chain of biofuels, serving the dual purpose of increasing domestic energy security and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. *The Five Principles for Post-COVID Bioeconomy Recovery and Acceleration* launched in August 2020 by the **Biofuture Platform**, a multi-stakeholder initiative of which both India and Brazil are members, prominently emphasizes the need for governments to incorporate bioenergy in their post-pandemic economic recovery plans. At the same time, the Sustainable Recovery Plan presented by the **International Energy Agency (IEA)** shows that biofuels could be a very cost-effective way to create employment in the energy sector, with the potential of creating up to 30 jobs per million dollars spent.

As ethanol is the most widely available and used biofuel in the world, it will play a pivotal role in decarbonising the transport sector and reducing energy dependence on imports. Both India and Brazil have shown commitment towards the **Paris Agreement**¹, through their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)² to increase the use of ethanol in the transport matrix. In Brazil, a lasting policy³, which mandates the blending of ethanol in gasoline, has allowed the country to become the world's second largest producer and exporter of ethanol, and proportionally the largest consumer of ethanol in its transport matrix. As for India, it has also accelerated its pace of ethanol uptake by recently advancing its 20% blending target from 2030 to 2025. There is also now a renewed impetus given by the Indian government for deploying flex-fuel engines across all vehicle segments to increase the adoption rate of this alternative fuel.

Besides the **Biofuture Platform**, India and Brazil cooperate closely in the domain of ethanol for transportation on several multilateral platforms. The two countries have recently been selected as global champions for the theme of Energy Transition under the **UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy**⁴. India and Brazil are also co-leading the **Mission Innovation's Sustainable Biofuels Innovation Challenge**⁵ to develop ways to produce, at scale, widely affordable, advanced biofuels for transportation and industrial applications. Time is high for a constant cross-learning on the production, regulatory and technological aspects of ethanol supply between India and Brazil.

¹ The Paris Agreement was adopted in December 2015 by the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP-21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has been in force since November 2016.

² The NDCs embody voluntary efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Hence, they are essential to the achievement of the Paris Agreement's long-term goals.

³ As the latest National Biofuels Policy – RenovaBio –, in force since 2019.

⁴ The UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy was held in September 2021. The other global champions of energy transition are Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Germany, Nigeria, Spain and the United Kingdom.

⁵ Mission Innovation (MI) is a global initiative of 24 countries and the European Commission seeking to double public investment in clean energy RD&D by engaging the private sector, fostering international collaboration and celebrating innovators. The MI's Sustainable Biofuels Challenge is co-lead by Brazil, India, Canada and China.

OBJECTIVES

In the context of the State Visit of the President of Brazil, H.E. Mr. Jair Bolsonaro, to India in January 2020, the two countries signed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Bioenergy Cooperation, aiming to “promote the production and use of biofuels, including ethanol” by taking into account “the experience accumulated by both countries.” Building on this intent, Brazilian and Indian institutions from the Government and private sector had jointly organised in India the seminar **Sustainable Mobility: Ethanol Talks** in February 2020. The event’s success can still be felt today in the continuous dialogue it has spurred between some of the key players in the sector. To keep up with the pace of change in the ethanol regulation in India, stakeholders from both countries propose a second edition of the Ethanol Talks for 17 and 18 November 2021, this time to take place on a virtual platform. The **Sustainable Mobility: Ethanol Talks II India** envisages encouraging further substantive dialogue between policy makers, regulators, industry representatives and technical experts in the ethanol sector of both countries in order to institutionalise a continuous exchange on the subject and provide opportunity for periodic reviews on the progress made.

The purpose of the two-day webinar is to identify complementarities, fill knowledge gaps and charter a future course together for the ethanol markets of India and Brazil. The webinar also intends to spread awareness on the accomplished environmental, economic and social benefits of ethanol production and its use in the transport sector with the aim of increasing consumer adoption for the fuel.

FORMAT

The two-day seminar will gather authorities and sectoral experts from both countries to discuss ethanol-related topics on a virtual platform. The programme includes a high-level inaugural session, four panel discussions and a concluding panel for building the next steps together.

REALIZATION



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