Biomass in the Energy Mix of Algeria

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Abstract

The 2015 updated version of the Algeria Renewable Energy development program foresees the introduction of biomass sector with a contribution of 1000 MW by 2030. The implementation of this program, by 2030, will represent a share of renewables of nearly 27% in the national electricity production balance sheet.
Strategic sectors of agriculture will rely mainly on bioenergy as well as on water reserves to achieve sustainability. This is crucial in view of achieving food security. Modern, mechanized agriculture will rely on water and alternative fuels when fossil resources will run out. These biomass based fuels will have to be produced in large quantities in order to meet the growing needs of the population.
Presently, biomass exploitation for energy purposes has not yet made any significant progess in our country and priority is given for solar and wind. It seems like bioenergy is not on the agenda of Algerian policy makers.
In this paper, we will discuss the constraints and challenges of using biomass for energy. These barriers must nevertheless be removed if bioenergy is to be considered as part of the Algeria's future energy mix. There is no doubt that sustainable farms capable of ensuring food security will rely essentially on biomass valorization as an energy source in the near future. We will show how energy security, food security and water are interlinked and form a global challenge that remains to be met.

Keywords— Biomass, energy mix, bioenergy, Algeria energy policy