

News Release: Workshop and Requests from BMFV on FSC false claim issue

BIOMASS FUEL VIETNAM held a workshop on the main theme of Due Diligence and FSC false claim issues related to wood pellets produced in Vietnam.

FOE Japan, FSC Vietnam, VIFORES, USAID, NEPCon and WWF participated in the workshop as speakers.

Active discussions were held among participants from many organizations such as FSC itself, civil society organizations, industry associations, and USAID in the U.S., and we believe that we were able to sort out the issues.

*Workshop contents

Speaker	Organization	VN Time	Agenda
Mr. Eisuke Nomura	Biomass Fuel Vietnam	08:30-08:35	Opening speech
Representative of DARD	DARD	08:35-08:45	Give a speech
Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy	Biomass Fuel Vietnam	08:45-09:05	Introduction of the company's management system for securing legality and traceability.
Mr. Ngo Sy Hoai	Viforest	09:05-09:20	Wood material and products import/export in 2020
Mr. Junichi Mishiba	FoE Japan	09:20-09:50	Doubts with FSC certified imported pellets and criticism against imported biomass in Japan under the FIT.
		9:50- 10:00	Q&A session
Mr. Vu Thi Que Anh	FSC Vietnam	10:00-10:30	FSC Certification as a Tool to Ensure Traceability and FSC transaction verification for wood pellets supply chains in the Asia
		10:30-10:40	Break Time
Mr. Michio Kaneko	Biomass Fuel Vietnam	10:40-11:10	Clean Wood Law in Japan and Due diligence system
		11:10-11:45	Panel Discussion on FSC issues (BMFV, Viforest, Nepcon, FoE Japan, FSC Vietnam)
		11:45-13:30	Lunch Time
Mr. Le Thien Duc	Clever Forestry	13:30-14:00	Buyers' requirements on JIA FIT Cert, FSC Cert, SBP Cert
Mr. Hung Tran	NEPcon (Preferred by Nature)	14:00-14:30	USAID Forest Management
Ms. Nguyen Bich Hang	WWF	14:30-14:50	Introduction of WWF Forestry Program and Forest Forward
		14:50-15:20	Q&A Session between all parties
Mr. Eisuke Nomura	Biomass Fuel Vietnam	15:20-15:30	Closing speech



Based on the discussions during the workshop, BMFV proposes and requests the following to FSC Vietnam, FSC Japan, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), which controls over FIT in Japan, and the Forestry Agency, which manages wood legality regarding wood pellets from Vietnam.

- (1) The Transaction Verification for wood pellets under 100% FSC Claim produced and traded in 2020, which FSC has announced it would implement, to be carried out rigorously and without falsehood.
- (2) Along with the above Transaction Verification, the volume of wood pellets exported under the FSC 100% Claim and the area and region of the certified forest production area where the wood used as raw material for the pellets was produced must be disclosed, and the consistency between the raw material volume and sales volume to be confirmed.
The competent authorities in Japan are requested to disclose the quantity of imported FSC certified wood pellets from Vietnam. In addition, FSC Vietnam is requested to disclose the region (province and district level) and area of FSC certified forests.
- (3) FSC Vietnam and the certification bodies are requested to disclose the harvest rate and the volume rate of FSC certified forests in Vietnam.
- (4) Wood pellet producers and trading companies that mainly use imported FSC FM wood from overseas are requested to clarify from which country and region the FSC FM wood is imported, and to prove that the origin of raw material is from the forest (not from construction waste).
- (5) VIFOREST (Vietnam Forest Products Association) is requested to prepare for the establishment of Vietnam Wood Pellet Association in cooperation with FSC Vietnam and NGO. The Association is also requested to promote the due diligence system on legality and sustainability to member pellet producers.
- (6) We request Japanese wood pellet users to register as a wood related-business entity and proactively conduct due diligence on legality and sustainability in accordance with the purpose of the Clean Wood Act, rather than relying only on FSC 100% claims.

End.