Small Hydro and Biomass Situation in Nigeria: Government's Policy Directives on FIT

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Abstract

Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation (over 100 Million) and the largest producer of petroleum (sbout 2.3 MMbbls/day, making it the sixth world exporter). Despite this, more than two-thirds of Nigerians live in the rural areas, where the conventional petroleum fuels being, ironically scarce. The country is endowed with abundant energy resources, both conventional and renewable, which provides the immense capacity to develop an effective national energy plan. However, large hydro power technology is the prominent commercial renewable energy technology in the electricity supply mix; despite the immense availability of other potentials (the penetration of small-scale hydro power technology in the electricity supply mix is favored only under CO_2 emission constraints). Also, the availability of biomass resources follows the same pattern as the nation's vegetation and the contribution of animals and municipal wastes generated in the high-density urban areas indicates the high potentials of biomass energy.

Decentralized Energy (DE) on renewable sources as a way of producing electricity at or near the point of use, is a way of implementing policies like Feed-in Tariffs (FIT) on industrial, small group or individual supplies. Intensive efforts and realistic approach towards energy supply system in the country will have to be adopted in order to adequately exploit renewable energy resources and technologies for economic growth and development.

Keywords: *Renewable Energy, Small hydro, Biomass Energy, Feed-in Tariff*