



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

Canada



Scaling Up Bio 2024

Delivering Low Carbon Intensity

Canada's 9th annual industrial bioeconomy business conference

November 25 - 27, 2024, Ottawa, ON, Canada

ENHANCING TECHNO-ECONOMIC AND CARBON INTENSITY CONSISTENCY IN BIO-SAF PRODUCTION ACROSS BIOMASS SOURCES: A PATH TO GLOBAL STANDARDIZATION

*Marzouk Benali, Ph.D.
Research Manager
Biorefinery – Clean Fuels - Hydrogen*

CanmetENERGY
In Varennes

INDUSTRY SYSTEMS OPTIMIZATION GROUP
BIOREFINERY - CLEAN FUELS - HYDROGEN TEAM

Ottawa, November 27th, 2024

DISCLAIMER



- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in the reproduced material. NRCan shall at all times be indemnified and held harmless against any, and all claims whatsoever arising out of negligence or other fault in the use of the information contained in this publication or product.



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

OUTLINE

1

Why is a harmonization framework needed Bio-SAF assessment? What are the critical challenges of the harmonization framework development?

2

Role of international collaboration networks

3

Canada – Brazil collaboration : Harmonization challenges and selected comparison metrics

4

Canada – Brazil : Key outcomes and takeaway messages



WHY A HARMONIZATION FRAMEWORK IS NEEDED FOR BIO-SAF ASSESSMENT?

- Inconsistencies in metrics and methodologies:
 - Current techno-economic, sustainability, and carbon intensity (CI) **assessments vary significantly across studies and regions/countries**, hinder cross-border comparison and policy alignment.
 - **Differences in biomass feedstocks** and production technologies necessitate harmonized assessment frameworks for fair evaluation.
- Global nature of aviation:
 - Airlines and fuel producers operate **across jurisdictions**, requiring universally accepted benchmarks for Bio-SAF to align with industry and regulatory standards.
- Facilitation of policy alignment:
 - A harmonized framework **supports consistent policy development, promotes market growth, and facilitates global certification systems**, such as ICAO's CORSIA, by providing unified assessment frameworks.
- Enhanced credibility:
 - **Standardized methods improve the credibility of Bio-SAF assessments**, building trust among stakeholders, including regulators, investors, and consumers.



CRITICAL CHALLENGES IN HARMONIZATION FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT

- **Feedstock variability:**
 - Biomass sources (e.g., agricultural waste, forest residues) differ in chemical composition and availability, complicating carbon intensity (CI) comparisons.
- **Jurisdictional variability:**
 - Differences in policy instruments, energy mixes, subsidies, and carbon accounting standards and biomass availability complicate harmonization and create market inconsistencies.
- **Data gaps:**
 - Limited availability of high-quality, comparable data across regions.
- **Policy misalignment:**
 - Lack of consistency in carbon accounting and life-cycle assessment (LCA) standards.
- **Economic barriers:**
 - Diverging costs of production and subsidy mechanisms hinder equitable adoption.
 - Lack of standardization increases uncertainty for airlines and producers, delaying Bio-SAF adoption.



ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION NETWORKS

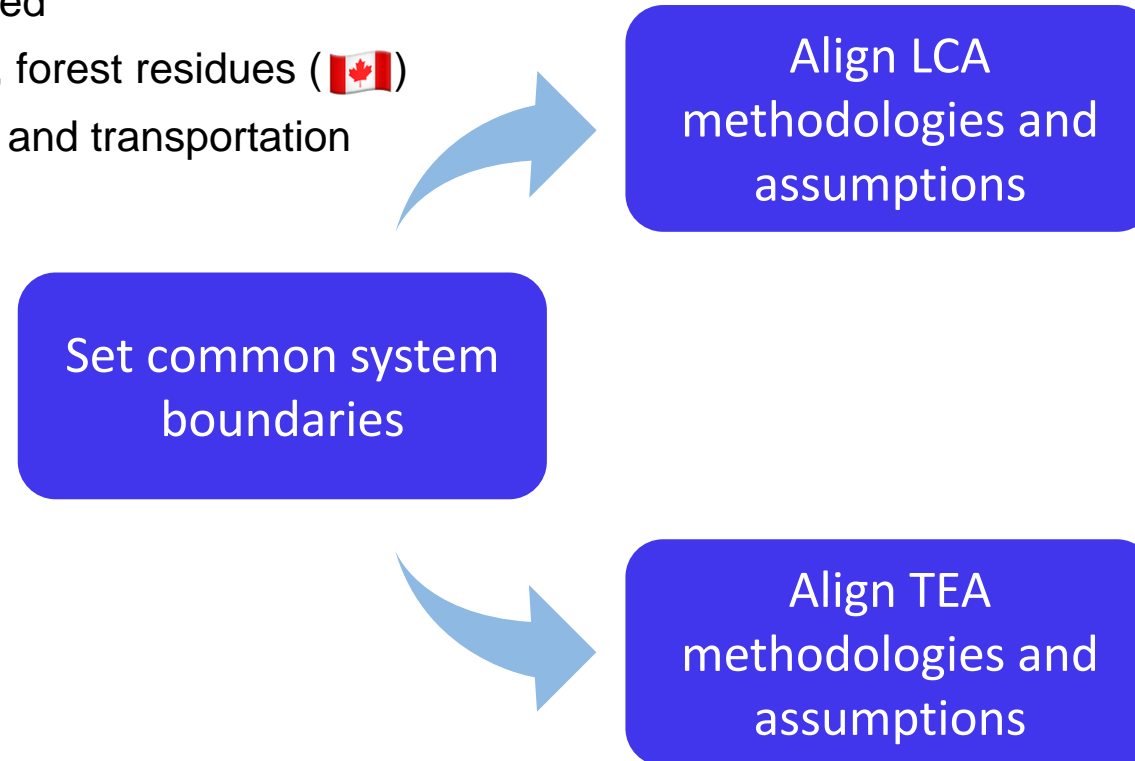
- Knowledge sharing:
 - Facilitate the **exchange of best practices, data, and methodologies** across borders.
 - **Co-develop** and implement a harmonized framework for Bio-SAF production.
- Stakeholder engagement:
 - **Unite** academia, industry, governments, and international organizations (e.g., **Mission Innovation**, IEA Bioenergy, IATA, etc).
 - **Support multi-stakeholder studies** to address knowledge gaps and refine methodologies.
- Harmonized policy frameworks:
 - **Coordinate policy alignment and advocate for policy convergence** to reduce trade barriers and foster market integration.
 - Advance Bio-SAF assessment for a **continuous refinement** to address evolving needs and challenges.
- Technology development:
 - Support the **global deployment of advanced SAF production technologies** by streamlining R&D efforts.
 - Continuously refine the framework using feedback and evolving technologies.



ADDRESSING THE HARMONIZATION CHALLENGE

- SAF production capacity
- Cradle-to-grave LCA boundaries
- Biomass residues used

Sugarcane straw (🇧🇷), forest residues (🇨🇦)
Only residues recovery and transportation included



- Similar assumptions for product characterization (e.g., SAF price) and project implementation (e.g., construction period, process ramp-up, discount rate)
- Harmonized LCA databases and impact estimation methodologies
- Location-specific parameters considered for supply chain, specific capital and operating costs (e.g., utilities price, labor, taxes)

SELECTED COMPARISON METRICS

% Thermal efficiency

Biorefinery efficiency: energy of biorefinery products per energy input in the biorefinery

⚡ Energy Return on Investment (EROI)

Energy efficiency: renewable energy output per energy used in the life cycle*

\$ Minimum Selling Price (MSP)

Economic feasibility considering capital and operating costs, as well as the role of co-products

CO₂ Carbon intensity (CI)

GHG emissions on a cradle-to-grave basis

📈 GHG Abatement cost

Combines economic and environmental aspects

* **Note:** The EROI metric is expressed through two variants:

- (1) Energy efficiency, considering both renewable and non-renewable energy inputs in the lifecycle; and
- (2) Energy transition, considering only non-renewable energy inputs.

HARMONIZED KEY PARAMETERS OF SAF BIOREFINERIES: CANADA – BRAZIL (1/2)

- Targeted SAF production capacity: **2,000 barrel/day of SAF.**
- Product properties:
 - Carbon intensity fossil jet fuel: **89 g CO_{2eq}/MJ.**
 - SAF: **LHV = 43.54 MJ/kg; Density = 735 kg/m³; Energy density = 34.5 MJ/L.**
 - Naphtha: **LHV = 44.94 MJ/kg; Density = 690 kg/m³.**
- **Jet fuel price in 2019** using IATA report and **actualized to 2023** using yearly average values (**0.55 US\$/L**).
- **No incentive and no premium** on product pricing for the base case scenario.
- CAPEX calculations:
 - **2023 Chemical Engineering Plant Cost Index (CEPCI) value:** 797.9.
 - **Contingency costs:** 10% of fixed capital investment (FCI).
 - Other CAPEX components such as installation factors are country-specific.

OUTCOMES OF CANADIAN SCENARIOS IMPLEMENTATION

% Thermal efficiency

60% - 66%



Energy Return on Investment (EROI)

Energy efficiency: **0.55 – 0.60**

Energy transition: **4.4 – 16**

\$ Minimum Selling Price (MSP)

1.3 – 1.6 USD/L

About 2.5 times higher than fossil kerosene



Carbon intensity (CI)

2.0 – 2.5 g CO₂eq/MJ

About 98% reduction in GHG emissions



GHG Abatement cost

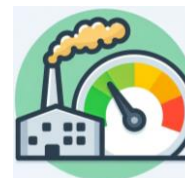
270 – 330 USD/t CO₂eq

**Preliminary results vary with SAF capacity and
underlying assumptions**



KEY TAKE-AWAY MESSAGES

- Significance of Bio-SAF production location:
 - **Proximity to Biomass Sources:** The availability and diversity of biomass feedstocks significantly influence the feasibility of a biorefinery.
 - **Regional Variability:** Countries or regions with abundant, varied biomass sources are better positioned for sustainable aviation fuels production.
- Impact of biomass properties and logistics:
 - **Process Efficiency:** Variations in the chemical composition of biomass (e.g., lignin, cellulose, hemicellulose content) and its ultimate analysis (e.g., C, H, N, O, S and ash contents) affect conversion efficiencies and biomass-to-SAF yields.
 - **Carbon Footprint:** Transportation distance and methods influence the overall carbon intensity, with shorter, localized supply chains offering environmental advantages.
 - **Economic Viability:** Feedstock cost, transportation logistics, and operational expenses determine the profitability of biorefineries.





Contact infos:

Marzouk Benali, Eng.D., Ph.D.

Research Manager

Biorefinery – Hydrogen – Clean Fuels

Industrial Systems Optimization

Energy Efficiency and Technology Sector

Natural Resources Canada | Government of
Canada

Email: marzouk.benali@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

Mobile: +1 (514) 241-5915



1615 Lionel-Boulet Blvd.
Varenes (QC) J3X 1P7
Phone: +1.450.652.4621
canmetenergy@nrcan.gc.ca



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

Canada 

THANK YOU!



QUESTIONS?



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

Canada

Canada 

© His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Natural Resources, 2024