



# THE GLOBAL BIOFUEL ALLIANCE (GBA)

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The Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA), announced at the G20 New Delhi summit in 2023, is a testament to international cooperation in the quest for sustainable energy solutions. This collective of nations, including major biofuel producers such as Brazil and the United States, aims to extend and develop markets for sustainable biofuels. The GBA is not only an initiative for energy diversification but also a platform for India to advance towards its net-zero emissions goal.

Biofuels, derived from plant waste, agriculture, or industry, have shifted from their traditional use for heating to become a cleaner alternative in the transportation sector. Ethanol, biodiesel, and renewable diesel are some of the notable biofuels in use today<sup>1</sup>. The GBA aspires to be a central knowledge hub, expanding the usage of biofuels while ensuring their affordability, accessibility, and sustainability. This includes exploring diverse fuel sources like algae, biomass, and other renewables to ensure an environmentally friendly energy future. The alliance also aims to improve the efficiency of existing biofuels through advanced technologies and conservation efforts.

India's leadership in forming the GBA aligns with its broader environmental sustainability goals. Amidst geopolitical disruptions and the pandemic's adverse effects on developing nations, India's role is pivotal. The country's amended National Biofuels Policy and initiatives like the Gobardhan scheme reflect its commitment to renewable energy expansion. The GBA also aligns with India's aim to become carbon neutral by 2070, with the biofuel industry expected to increase farmers' incomes and create sustainability-focused jobs<sup>1</sup>.

However, the GBA faces the "food versus fuel" debate. The concern is that biofuel production, which often relies on crops, might divert agricultural resources from food production, exacerbating food shortages in conflict-affected regions. The sustainability of biofuel feedstock is subject to climatic conditions, land availability, and agricultural needs. Addressing these challenges involves optimizing land use and considering alternative biofuel sources, such as waste products, to mitigate environmental and food security issues.

The GBA was one of several environmental initiatives launched at the G20 summit, highlighting the global emphasis on sustainability. Other initiatives included "Lifestyles for Sustainable Development" (LiFE), promoting eco-conscious living, and a Technical Assistance Action Plan (TAAP) focusing on sustainable finance and capacity building for MSMEs.

In summary, the GBA is an ambitious endeavor to harmonize environmental stewardship with economic growth and energy security. It is an initiative that reflects a collective acknowledgment of the need for sustainable energy practices and represents a concerted effort by the international community to address the urgent challenges posed by climate change. While the GBA is poised to make significant strides in the energy sector, it must navigate the complexities of environmental impact, economic viability, and food security to achieve its objectives.

For a detailed examination of the GBA and related initiatives, references from various sources, including those from Eco-Business, offer thorough insights:

1. [Eco-Business](#) provides a detailed explainer on the GBA, its goals, and the challenges it faces.
2. Further information and updates about the GBA and its initiatives can be found through the [World Economic Forum](#), which discusses the alliance's launch and its role in the G20 summit.
3. The official announcement on the [Ministry of External Affairs of India](#) website.
4. An article by Rishi Ranjan Kala on [BusinessLine](#) discussing the G20 leaders' launch of the Global Biofuel Alliance.
5. An explanation of what drives the Global Biofuels Alliance by Kunal Shankar in [The Hindu](#).
6. Information provided on the [G20's official site](#).
7. Coverage of the launch by [Livemint](#), which includes comments from PM Modi.
8. An article on the significance of the alliance launched at the G20 Summit by [Hindustan Times](#).

These resources can provide in-depth information and various perspectives on the objectives, activities, and significance of the Global Biofuel Alliance.

Overview of the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA)  
Under India's G20 presidency, the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) was established with the following aims and key facts:

- **Membership:** The alliance includes major biofuel producers such as Brazil, the United States, and India, which collectively account for 85% of ethanol production. It comprises 19 country members and 12 international organizations, including the World Bank and World Economic Forum.
- **Objectives:** The GBA's goals are to promote sustainable biofuel markets, achieve net-zero targets by decarbonizing transportation and heating, and establish a virtual biofuel demand and supply marketplace.
- **Feedstock:** Biofuels are obtained from various sources, including plant waste, agriculture, and industry, with sugarcane, rice, and corn being the primary feedstocks.
- **Knowledge Hub:** The GBA is a central biofuel knowledge hub, with a focus on expanding biofuel usage, affordability, accessibility, and sustainability. It aims to reduce environmental impact by diversifying fuel sources beyond traditional feedstocks.
- **India's Role:** India aims to utilize the GBA to achieve its carbon-neutral objectives by 2070, boost biofuel demand, and potentially increase income for farmers by using different feedstocks.
- **Environmental and Food Security:** The GBA is aware of the "food versus fuel" debate, as the increased demand for biofuel crops could affect food production. To address these concerns, the alliance is exploring alternative sources for biofuels and optimizing land use.