Yuliya Voytenko:

CO-BENEFITS FROM SUSTAINABLE BIOENERGY SYSTEMS (short description of a post-doctoral research proposal)

Bioenergy systems can deliver socio-economic & ecological co-benefits. These are ancillary benefits from agro-biomass crops, biofuels, & activities related to their production & use that are in addition to direct economic revenues from agricultural or downstream processing activities. Bioenergy co-benefits contribute to the alleviation of energy insecurity, unemployment, rural depopulation and poverty, poor state of the environment etc. Scientific knowledge on bioenergy co-benefits is fragmented, & empirical data is lacking.

The project aims to delineate pathways for sustainable bioenergy sector development via leveraging co-benefits in local bioenergy systems & flow-on business. It focuses on Sweden (SE) with generalisability to other contexts. The main expected outcome are new guidance packages for policy makers & bioenergy actors, who want to pursue successful, value adding & sustainable bioenergy systems.

Project steps are 1) literature review on bioenergy co-benefits in international & SE contexts; 2) co-benefit rationalisation via conceptual frameworks; 3) empirical data collection through case studies in SE, its analysis via conceptual frameworks; 4) project results communication to policy makers & target groups. This research will contribute to knowledge in the fields of bioenergy, sustainability, agriculture, environment, economy, rural development. It will benefit SE rural development & energy policy, broader society, economy & environmental quality.