Expert Group Meeting on "Methodology for Mainstreaming Appropriate Green Technology Initiatives in Rural Areas of the Arab Region".
25-26 February 2015
Beirut, Lebanon

APPROPRIATE RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES (ARET) FOR PRODUCTIVE USE IN THE RURAL PRODUCTIVE SECTORS OF THE ARAB REGION

Remarks on the European Experience

Dr. Ulrike Lehr
Drivers and concerns for RE in Rural Areas in Europe

- Investment subsidy / product subsidy
- Agriculture is subsidized in Europe, investment support could be more productive
- Application can spur production
- Alternative income generation
- Infrastructure
- Increased economic activity from investment in RE improves the regional infrastructure => increases attractiveness
European results for RE on farms

- Farmers indicate that RE has changed their regions
- RE accelerated innovation
- RE accelerated modernization
- Farmers see a hedge against price volatility, also cross prices with other farms products
- Increases entrepreneurship of farmers, encourages cooperation for larger investments
German experience

- At the peak of Germany’s investment in RE 20% went to rural areas
- Increased farmers’ incomes significantly
- Most small district heat projects are also in rural areas
- Made rural areas more attractive
- Increased income generation in gastronomy and hotels

- RE tourism is used in several regions in Europe:
  - Off-shore wind farms in Denmark
  - RE training and media centers in East Germany
  - 100% renewable villages in the South
Thank you for your attention!

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In the context of providing modern energy services in rural areas, a productive use of energy is one that involves the application of energy derived mainly from renewable resources to create goods and/or services either directly or indirectly for the production of income or value.