



AFRICAN UNION



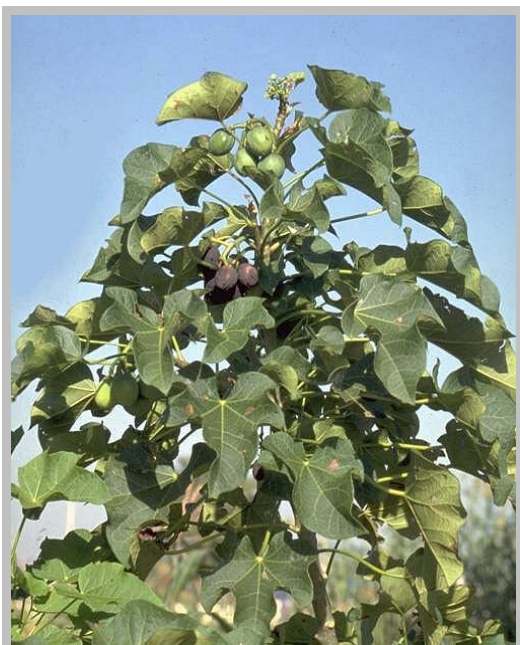
A joint activity of the African Union, Brazilian Government and UNIDO.

The First High-Level Biofuels Conference in Africa

30th of July – 1st of August 2007, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Introduction

Over the past 5 or so years, there has been a renewed interest in liquid biofuels in Africa and the rest of the world as a response to the high and volatile prices of oil. On the other hand, experience in countries like India also shows that technologies like gasification and biogas are also becoming reliable, cost effective and ready for market dissemination. Given the vast land resources, conducive climate and vast biomass resources in Africa, there is no doubt that the development of biofuels could provide the much-needed energy for industrialisation and poverty reduction efforts. However, biofuels development has associated risks and trade-offs and hence the need for careful consideration. So far, biofuels development in Africa has tended to be undertaken in an ad-hoc fashion with no linkage with existing energy sector and other development policies and strategies at national and regional levels. Given the potential role that biofuels can play in increasing access to energy in Africa and the concomitant challenges, there is need to bring key stakeholders together and explore the potential of biofuels in Africa and make use of experiences from countries inside and outside Africa in outlining a biofuels development program of action for Africa. The program of action will, among others, outline the role key stakeholders can play in facilitating sustainable biofuels development.



Jatropha Plant, a key source of biodiesel
Source: <http://www.weihenstephan.de>

Objectives

The seminar seeks to explore the possibilities of developing biofuels in Africa while safeguarding the balance between the need for new energy resources and the associated risks and trade-offs of biofuels in Africa. More specifically, the seminar has the following key objectives:

- Raise the awareness of key stakeholders', especially policy makers, on the potential and trade-offs of biofuels;
- Promote the exchange of experiences and lessons in developing biofuels focussing on Brazil and other regions;
- Explore the potential and challenges to the dissemination of priority biofuels technologies in Africa; and
- Develop a plan of action on biofuels development.



Biomass Gasification Technology for Process Heat Applications
Source: Uruguay Gasifier Company

Profile of participants

Over 250 participants are expected comprising of:

- Ministers and other high-level government officials from sectors that include energy, agriculture, environment etc;
- Representatives of Multi/Bilateral Organizations, Regional Agencies and Institutions;
- Private sector and civil society;
- Representatives of research and development institutions, Experts from academia
- Representatives of SMEs and industry associations.

Contact Details

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