

Bio fuel and the world dream

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Introduction

Although the discovery of bio fuel from sugar cane, vegetables and others are part of the great achievement in the history of mankind as well as the superiority in talents of the modern society for the ability to be able to discover a clean, affordable and sufficient source of energy from ordinary plants that had long being in existence for thousands and even millions of years undiscovered in mans environment, but it should be understood that there are great numbers of challenges that will be coming the way of this great discovery and if it remains unresolved the dream of replacing the petroleum as a source of energy will ever remain unachieved.

Results and Discussions



Figure 1. Showing Jatropa plant in Ghana which has rich oil content.



Figure 2. Showing an advert of how bio fuel works in an African television.



Figure 3. Showing a local farm in Eikehof outside Johannesburg, South Africa.

Some of the challenges are as under listed:

1. Food security; many communities, agriculturalist, economies and researchers predicted or forecasted that if the use of bio fuel takes off or starts on a commercial quantity as expected many farmlands used for food crops will give way for bio fuel producing plants, because of the value of the products [bio fuel] in the market there by creating vacuum in the food security of the entire world that will be hard to be fill.
2. Social conflicts; many grazing fields for animals will be leased or sold out for the cultivation of bio fuel plants, hence the situation will lead to communal clashes in sharing of alternative lands between peasant farmers and cattle rearers especially in Africa and Asia.
3. Create room for more research; when on the 23rd February 2008 a passenger plane belonging to virgin Atlantic was on a test drive using the bio fuel was flown from London [united kingdom] to Amsterdam [Netherlands] successfully and promised that the aviation industry will start the use of the bio fuel on commercial quantity in ten years time .Many people felt that the time period to begin the use of this bio fuel by the aviation industry is too short because experts said that there could be some hidden disadvantages that will take years to be understood especially at the phase of the on going global climate change caused by man.
4. Deforestation and desertification; many natural shelter belt plants capable of preventing desert encroachments in the Sahelian

environments especially in the Sahelian parts of Africa will give way to bio fuel producing plants like sugar canes, vegetables etc there by given advantage to the deserts advancement.

5. Unemployment; many employees working in the petroleum industries will lose their jobs as a result of the bio fuel replacing or competing with the petroleum products in the energy market.

6. Climate change; when natural vegetations like grazing fields and forests are altered by man through or by replacing them with bio fuel plants, the situation tends to create micro climatic changes which will latter lead to or affects the entire global climate change processes.

7. Traditional knowledge; many communities depending on local plants within their environment for medicinal cultural, ritual and spiritual purposes will suffer from the coming of bio fuel as many of such plants will be disappearing over time by giving way to bio fuel plants.

8. Indigenous issues; many governments especially in Africa, the Americas and Asia will use their powers in giving indigenous lands for bio fuel farming, because of the profits involved in the bio fuel production, hence creating more problems for the indigenous people who are

already suffering from the impacts of colonialism in there territories.

In view of the above the issue of bio fuel becomes or assumes the shape of a vicious cycle.

Conclusions

The more the farmland for bio fuel- the more the production of bio fuel -the more the problem it causes.

Therefore in order to make this new discovery of the 21st century to be a clean, affordable and alternative source of energy in the energy market as well as a environmental friendly source of energy.

All the above listed points are needed to be taken into consideration, otherwise the dream and the future of the bio fuel will ever remain unachieved.

¹<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86044>

² <http://bio-fuel-watch.blogspot.com/2009/06/biofuelwatch-code-of-conduct-urged-for.html>.

³<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/hr4923.doc.htm>

⁴UNITED NATIONS Conference on Environment and Development (1992) Report Vol. 1 Agenda 21, IUCN Publication Washington Dc. USA.