



Project Summary

Towards Sustainability Certification of Jatropha Biofuels in Mozambique



Women on Jatropha plantation in the Manica Province in Mozambique (Source: Sun Biofuels 2009)

Project developed by:

Thilo Zelt, Andreas Renner, Matthias Spöttle

(Jatropha Alliance www.jatropha-alliance.org and GEXSI www.gexsi.org)

Peter Vissers, Emiel Hanekamp and Eva Froger

(Partners for Innovation BV www.partnersforinnovation.com)

Carl von Gablenz (Elaion AG www.elaion-ag.de)

Harry Stourton (Sun Biofuels Mozambique SA www.sunbiofuels.com)

Gregor von Drabich (Agro Pecuaría de Manica Lda www.greenpower.li)

Contact data:

Jatropha Alliance

Thilo Zelt

zelt@jatropha-alliance.org

+49.1577.1700.575

Partners for Innovation

Peter Vissers

p.vissers@partnersforinnovation.com

+32.497.570.466





Project Summary

Background

The Jatropha biofuel industry has attractive sustainability features: the Jatropha tree is a second-generation feedstock for non-edible oil, which can be produced in such a way that it:

1. Does not compete with food production;
2. Rehabilitates wastelands;
3. Offsets significantly more CO₂ than current “mainstream” biofuels;
4. Integrates smallholders that currently have no access to markets to sell their produce;
5. Enhances local economic development, and;
6. Creates decent employment and income opportunities in disadvantaged regions.

The Jatropha industry, however, is still in a very early stage. Although approximately 900,000 hectares of Jatropha have already been planted, mainly in Asia but increasingly in Africa and Latin America, very few projects are more than two years old and hardly any project can demonstrate significant production of Jatropha oil yet. Little material is available on the structure and developments of this industry sector. Sustainability monitoring is non-existing.

So far, the Testing framework for sustainable biomass was not applied in the Jatropha industry, the biomass chain is not certified, and macro monitoring of the biomass chain is not taking place. There is a general lack of data and comprehensive analysis of the sustainability of the biomass chain. The industry is aware of possible critical issues but steps towards sustainability assessment and monitoring were taken only recently because of the early stage of industry. With the current project the Jatropha industry expects to set a logical next step on the road to sustainable and certified Jatropha biomass chains.

Project goal

The project aim is to build up knowledge for future certification of Jatropha biofuels through a benchmark sustainability assessment using existing sustainability criteria frameworks.

Project results

The project will apply the Cramer Criteria for the first time within the Jatropha industry and thereby sets a benchmark for the industry. The knowledge generated in the project will be disseminated within the industry, and fed back into relevant sustainability initiatives of sustainable biomass certification. The project will reduce the uncertainty about compliance with future sustainability certification requirements, and will help the industry to build up the knowledge and capacity to improve and demonstrate the sustainability of its biomass chains.

Project implementation

The project will start with a review of the available sustainability criteria frameworks and certification schemes and will prepare a practical methodology for the sustainability assessment of Jatropha plantations. Three plantations will then be assessed, all located in Mozambique, a country chosen for its favourable conditions for Jatropha. Local stakeholders are involved in the assessment through a local stakeholder process that is anticipated to last beyond the project period. The assessment methodology and results will be published on the web, actively fed into relevant international forums and widely disseminated within the Jatropha industry. The project will run between 1 October 2009 and 30 September 2010.

The project will be implemented by the Jatropha Alliance, that represents the Jatropha Industry worldwide, the Global Exchange for Social Investment (GEXSI), Partners for Innovation BV, Elaion Africa, Sun Biofuels Mozambique and Agro Pecuaria de Manica. SenterNovem, the Netherlands, has decided to co-fund the project within the Global Sustainable Biomass Fund.



Project activities

Activities		Explanation in keywords
1	Translating the available sustainability criteria into a practical assessment methodology (to be completed in 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the available sustainability criteria frameworks and practicability for application within the project - Review of available certification schemes and their sets of criteria - Development of a draft methodology for the sustainability assessment of the project - Workshop in Mozambique on the methodology and data collection for the sustainability assessment of the three pilot plantations - Incorporating of comments by the international project team and the regional project team on the draft methodology
2	Regional embedding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High level stakeholder reception in Maputo to inform policymakers and international NGOs about the project. - Local workshop in Beira to discuss implementation and practicability of sustainability assessment methodology - Setting-up and managing a regional stakeholder advisory group in Mozambique by Jatropha Alliance members. This advisory group will comment the criteria catalogue and assessment methodology, as well as the assessment results. The advisory group will be instrumental in setting up a regional chapter of the Jatropha Alliance in Mozambique
3	Data collection and compilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local socio-economic scientists, agricultural/forestry and biodiversity experts are contracted by the local project team for collection and compilation of relevant data for the sustainability assessment. The international project team will supervise this process.
4	Sustainability assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainability assessment of the three plantations in Mozambique. Includes a workshop in Mozambique on draft results and on gaps in data obtained. - Development of recommendations to Jatropha industry regarding sustainability criteria, sustainability assessments and participation in certification schemes
5	Interaction with European institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The draft assessment report will be fed into the fora that currently develop frameworks for sustainability certification of biomass and biofuels (e.g. EU/CEN, Dutch government/NEN, Roundtable of Sustainable Biofuels). Comments will be actively sought.
6	Dissemination within Jatropha Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The documentation of the Mozambique case study will provide a benchmark for other Jatropha companies, in Mozambique and in other countries, to conduct similar sustainability assessments. The Jatropha Alliance will promote such assessments as an industry-wide best practice.
7	Project management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project management will steer the project, set up and manage the international and local project teams, contract the work and monitor its progress.