



Biofuels Information Exchange

Innovations in agricultural knowledge sharing

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www.cabi.org

KNOWLEDGE FOR LIFE

Biofuels: Why?

- In 2008, there was a:
 - \$396 million investment in cellulosic conversion
 - \$125m investment in biodiesel
 - \$195m investment in algal biodiesel
- Growth in bio-energy is due to rise steeply
 - Land use for biofuels in major producing countries is currently ~13.8 million ha
 - Needs to rise to between 56 and 166 million ha by 2020 under global biofuel targets
- Bio-energy is ca 5-8% of global energy supplies
- Bio-energy accounts for 33% of energy use in developing countries
 - Biomass is household energy for 2-3 billion people
 - Committed to biofuel use in transportation

Social Networking for Scientific Support, Is there a need?



- Identified as a need at CABI Member Countries' Regional Consultations
- Unbiased information about biofuels
- How can scientists throughout the world share ideas and knowledge?

Biofuels Information Needs

- Policies need to be science-based to encourage investments in R&D of sustainable biofuel technologies
- Scientific information, independent of vested commercial/political interests, to help with risk assessments about investing in sustainable biofuels
- Objective information for policymakers in both the developed and developing world
- A forum for scientific and development debate

Ning, our choice of platform

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Biofuels Information Exchange

- Launched April 2009



Biofuels

...information exchange



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Top Biofuels News ✎ Edit

[World needs sophisticated biofuel approach, urges report - SciDev.Net](#)
20th Oct 2009

[African Jatropha Boom Raises Concerns, New York Times](#), 8th October 2009

[How to turn seawater into jet fuel - tech](#) - 18 August 2009 - New Scientist

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Biofuels on Google News ✎ Edit

[Praj Ind. Novozymes sign agreement on advanced biofuels - India Infoline.com](#)

[Culver to Become Chair of National Governor's Biofuels Commission - Wallace's Farmer](#)


[Mali, where climate change talks mean life or death - WalesOnline](#)

[Self-Destructing Pond Scum Could Provide Good Biofuel - GreenPacks \(blog\)](#)

[Government report looks at ethanol's use of water - The Associated Press](#)

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Latest Activity ✎ Edit

 [Michael Poteet](#) is now a member

Welcome to the CABI Biofuels information exchange

What can you do here?

- see the latest [research](#) on biofuel crops and the issues that surround them
- [get in touch with experts](#) in your region, country or field of expertise
- discuss the latest biofuel issues with contemporaries in our [forum](#)

As a member you can form [groups](#) to discuss issues of particular interest to you and [build a profile of yourself](#) and your work.

Please feel free to [invite your colleagues](#)

What's in the news - October 2009 ✎ Edit

Further evidence of the waning interest in jatropha and the booming appetite for microbials has been highlighted by two recent in-depth news articles in the journal Nature. Under the heading 'Wonder weed plans fail to flourish' (Nature vol. 461, p 328-9, 17th September 2009), reporter Katherine Sanderson recounts the increasing difficulties facing companies trying to turn jatropha (currently covering about three-quarters of a million hectares) into a commercial success. 'Jatropha has gone very quiet' according to analyst Harry Boyle. Less than 5% of biofuel investment projects in 2009 have involved jatropha. The reasons are the same as those reported in the June edition of 'What's in the news': yields are very poor and it doesn't thrive on marginal land. Also, despite being touted as drought tolerant, recent evidence (now hotly disputed) suggests that jatropha is also a thirsty plant, in fact about the most water demanding biofuel plant currently grown. Added to this is New York Times article highlighting the disturbing report commissioned by the [African Biodiversity Network](#), which concluded that 'Thousands of farmers in Tanzania could face eviction from their lands by multinational organizations promoting the cultivation of biofuels'. Scaremongering or are we seeing the start of a disturbing example of forced land use change, that is not respecting the rights or needs of local populations in the developing world? This remains to be seen.

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Carol Ellison



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Biofuels Supplement

About



[Tim Holmes](#) created this social network on [Ning](#)

 Internet 100%

How do I participate?

- Free to join
- A social networking website for informed debate
 - CABI expert white papers and CAB Reviews
 - CAB Abstracts Biofuels subset: 35,000 records
 - Biofuel reports & papers collected from around the web
 - Monthly summary of 'What's in the News'
- Forum for discussing biofuels issues; for researchers, policy makers and other interested parties
- Group Discussion Forum with moderated membership
- The latest biofuels news is fed to the site by Google hour by hour

Is it used?

- Original target academics in the biofuels sector, hence initial uptake by developed world.
- Target revised to developing world policymakers; now has global focus.
- 270 members (Jan 2010), increasing daily (current 327)
 - Investors, research institutes, extension staff, private entrepreneurs.
- 8,000 site visits from more than 150 countries/territories in 2009.
- Top usage: UK (37%), USA (24%), India (11%), Mexico (8%), Canada, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, France, Netherlands (all at ~5% each).

Now have a look

Thank you

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