

## **Value Addition Processes for Job Creation in the use of Jatropha to enhance National Development.**

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### **Abstract**

The paper identifies the possible values derivable from large scale cultivation of Jatropha through the various products derived from it. It also examines the value chain process as related to the plant and how it can be exploited to create employment for the teaming unemployed to enhance poverty alleviation as well as National Development.

### **Introduction**

#### **Spread and origin of jathropha**

Grows in tropical and sub tropical regions with cultivating limits at 30oN and 35oS. It originated in Central America, and then spread across Africa and Asia and it is found throughout the tropics and sub tropics (Heller, 1996). With present clamour for the control of climate change, Jatropha is a great potential in the production of bio fuels as a substitute for fossil fuel, which are presently becoming expensive and seriously contributing to the so-called climate change adversely.

Similarly, in Nigeria, if the great potentials of this plant can fully be harnessed, it could bring about the creation of a lot of jobs, through the value chain system accruable from the various products that can be obtained from it, such as the bio fuels, soap making, organic fertilizer etc. The value chain process which involves various actors at every stage such as production, processing and storage, marketing and finally the consumers could create a lot of job opportunities.

### **Current Trends and Prospects**

In 2008, Jathropha cultivation was estimated to have reached 900,000 ha all over the world, with 760,000 ha (85%) in Asia, followed by Africa with 120,000ha and Latin America with 20,000 ha (IFAD 2008).

Gexis (2008), in his summation wrote that the area projected for Jathropha planting will be up to 12.8 million ha by 2015. From this Indonesia is expected to be the largest producer in Asia with 5.2 million ha, Ghana and Madagascar together with 1.1 million ha and Brazil is projected to be the largest producer in Latin America with 1.3 million ha.

### **Value addition to agricultural produce**

It begins with the crop breeder who develops a good and a high yielding variety of a crop for the farmer to use. Then the farmer having the appropriate knowledge of what he wants to produce, the appropriate skills and techniques to produce for the appropriate markets and prices. Value addition to produce reduces poverty by heating wealth and value added products increase prices, extend shelf-life and ensure food security. According to Brittain \$ Luta ladio

(2010), Jathropa is an under-utilized, oil-bearing crop. It produces a seed that can be processed into non-polluting bio diesel that, if well exploited can provide opportunities for good returns and rural development.

## Results and Discussion

### Job Creation

During the process of production, a lot of jobs could be created such as the propagation of the plant through nurseries up to the planting stage in plantations. Then of course, the tendering stages until harvesting. This could create a lot of jobs for farmers and of course the unemployed who may be interested. Such plantation schemes could be driven by investments from oil companies. With the Federal Government's drive to improve the extension delivery services sector, by employing unemployed graduates, these could be trained in Jathropa a production and utilization and form a link between researchers and farmers involved in the production of the plant.

An investment in mass production of Jathropa; could create large employment

opportunities for rural poor in semi arid regions to improve livelihoods.

Similarly rural businesses in the non-farm sector can be more efficient with the use of cheaper and a more dependable fuel source i.e. fuel oils produce with the plant.

Rural Women can also benefit immensely from scale production of this plant where they can be involved in the production of soap, fuel wood, cooking fuels, the use of the dried latex for making ink, leaves and bark for dying cloth etc.

Other benefits accruable from the value addition on this plant include production

of livestock feeds, organic fertilizer, sale of the seeds etc.

Since at present, the government is interested in harnessing the potentials of traditional medicine along with those of orthodox medicine, various medicine values such as antimicrobial agent, its use in veterinary medicine, its use (leaves) for control of hypertension etc, people could be trained in this wise to further enhance good health delivery.

Since it has been found that potentially, Jathropa can enhance the livelihood of masses, especially the rural poor, the following strategies for Jathropa development have been enumerated, it could:-

- Contribute to household and regional food security
- Increase energy services in the local communities
- Generate the largest value added possible
- Enhance the sustainability of smallholder farmers
- Include farm workers and landless farmers
- Enhance environmental resources

## Conclusion

Since this plant can do well in all the ecological zones of Nigeria, each state could be empowered to start large scale plantations of Jathropa to further create employment, provide alternative to the fossil fuel currently being used, enhance farm productivity through the use of organic fertilizer as an alternative to the inorganic fertilizer to mention these few, and overall to enhance the development of the

Nigeria economy and in turn the National development.

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