

Bedford Transplants its First Seedling in Kenya

October 17, 2011 - Today is a monumental day for Bedford Biofuels as planting began in Kenya, more than a week ahead of schedule.

Bedford's nursery was started at the end of July and is teeming with lush *Jatropha* seedlings. The company is now transplanting those seedlings into designated land at Kitangale Ranch to start the first section of Bedford's *Jatropha* operation.

"Tractors have been ordered along with water trailers and dump trailers," reports John Mitchell, Manager - Kenya. "Security fencing will start going up in a week and then we will work on temporary structures for security and housing, kitchen, toilets, work shop and concrete slab. The main road into the land with culvert and top covering were done on the weekend."

Bedford has clear title leases to 160,000 hectares of land in Kenya. NEMA (National Environment Management Authority) granted Bedford its EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) license in the spring to plant *Jatropha*.

Jatropha is a robust, drought resistant tree, which begins to flower within six to eight months of planting and matures within three to four years. The tree continues to product non-edible nuts, which contain 34-45% oil by weight, for up to 50 years.

Jatropha is a drop-in replacement for diesel fuel, which means its use does not require engine



Bedford's first transplanted seedling.



Bedford's nursery on October 7.

modification. The airline industry is the biggest market for Jatropha oil with some flights currently using the biofuel regularly.

Mitchell says the nursery seedlings are looking fantastic and transplanting is going smoothly. “It’s a very exciting time for Bedford in Kenya. We have been working toward this day for a long time and to see the plants going in the ground is a gratifying event.” ■