



Bedford Biofuels Introduces Calgary to Jatropha

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In the biofuel world, Jatropha is a household name. The “diesel plant” has been studied and tested by plant scientists and oil companies alike, and has earned support from organizations like NASA, Toyota, Boeing, Bayer, Japan Airlines and GE. Jatropha is a relatively new word, however, for most people outside of the biofuels industry. Calgary-based Bedford Biofuels is educating Canadian investors about the potential of biofuels in the marketplace and why Jatropha is the company’s feedstock of choice.

David McClure, President and CEO of Bedford Biofuels, said Jatropha was the stand-out biofuel when he was researching which alternative fuel to pursue. McClure’s business model syndicates private investment offerings in Canada to facilitate Bedford’s Jatropha operations in Kenya. With private investment, not only does the project go ahead with or without banks, but small- or large-scale investors in Canada can participate in the project from its beginning.

Supporting Jatropha

Jatropha curcas is an oil-bearing, sub-tropical, drought-resistant shrub able to grow in challenging environments. When grown in the right climate, Jatropha produces non-edible nuts high in oil. Crude Jatropha oil (CJO) can be used to run diesel engines and has tested successfully for use in aviation. Jatropha begins to flower within 6 to 8 months of planting, maturing within 3 to 4 years and continues to produce fruit for up to 50 years. When pressed, oil is extracted and a pulp residue or seedcake is left behind, which can be made into either fertilizer or animal feed.

Bedford COO, Gary Hartnett, said the support of government and local farmers alike in Kenya has been overwhelming.

-Our team believes in the potential of this plant, we have unanimous support in Kenya, we have the best land in the country – possibly the world – to grow Jatropha, we have a willing and available labour pool in the people of the Tana Delta, said Hartnett, a forester from Australia who has lived in Africa for more than four years.

-We needed someone who understood the limitless possibilities of the biofuels market. Enter David McClure, who has a mind for the business of biofuel and a heart for the people of the Tana Delta.

Empowering the Locals

For most of Bedford's investors, the promise of a better future for the people of the Tana Delta District is as important as high returns and environmental benefits.

Bedford's humanitarian division EMPOWER (Every Member Prospers on World Energy Resources) was formed to bring healthcare, education, and clean water to the people in the areas where Bedford will operate. The program will teach farmers to grow their own Jatropha in order to sell it to Bedford for income. Through intercropping and the transfer of farming skills to local farmers and landowners, EMPOWER will contribute to long-term food and financial security.

Right Industry, Right Time

Bedford sponsored two speaking tours in 2009: A Conversation with Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton in June and A Conversation with George W. Bush in October. The sold out tours gave Bedford an opportunity to tell its story in Toronto, Montreal, Edmonton and Saskatoon.

According to a Daily Finance article July 24, 2009, Pike Research has predicted a tripling of the global biofuels industry by 2020, which would value it at nearly a quarter trillion dollars in 10 years. McClure predicts 100% market absorption of Bedford's CJO and has secured crop insurance and political risk insurance for its plantations from Lloyd's of London and World Bank, respectively, to protect the project.

-Jatropha is environmentally beneficial, humanitarian in that its cultivation benefits the farmers in the areas we plant and their families, and it has the potential to be very profitable, said McClure.

-Through all of our research, our meetings with decision makers from around the globe, the countless Canadian investors we've met with and our involvement with Bush and Clinton, it has become increasingly evident that we are in the right industry at the right time. ■