

## **Nepalma Biodiesel ko Kheti (Jatropha Handbook)**

*Dr. Narayan Chaulagain*



Biodiesel is gaining worldwide popularity as one of the sustainable solutions for the growing threat to environmental degradation, energy security and rural development. Recent environmental and economic concerns have prompted resurgence in the use of biodiesel throughout the world. Considering all the options available among non-edible Tree Bearing Oil (TBO) seeds, *Jatropha curcas* has been identified as the most suitable seeds. Influenced by the many attractive features of *Jatropha curcas*, there has been unprecedented enthusiasm for planting of Jatropha as an energy crop by number of countries. The low cost of seeds, high oil percentage, small gestation period, growth on fallow and marginal land in both low and high rainfall areas, convenient plant size for collecting seeds and the high degree of intercropping potential to maximise returns make it popular.

Considering all these things and influence of Jatropha activities in neighboring countries, Nepalese farmers are eager to grow this diesel crop, even without reliable and authentic information. Numbers of NGOs/INGOs and private sector organisations are showing a keen interest to enter in this sector. Mr. Parbakhar Poudel has attempted to bring all the basic information about Jatropha in this book, which has been written with the objective of introducing the plant to rural poor communities.

Probably the first book about biofuel in Nepal, the following can be said about it:

- Landmark publication on the Jatropha plant.
- Direct communication of scientific knowledge to farmers and grass-root level people.
- Collection of more than 25 local names helps identify them easily.
- Well organised writing from background information to commercial cultivation practices.
- Suitable for farmers and community people.
- Economic analysis does not seem very realistic, as the estimated yield of 4Kg of seeds per plant is over-estimated.

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