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## A Blunder or Miracle Crop: *Jatropha curcas* Dilemma in the Tropics

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*The recent fervour of promoting *Jatropha curcas* as a biofuel crop to solve the environmental, social and economic issues was highlighted. Global warming and environmental degradation are the main issues that prompted developed countries in Europe to adopt biofuels as alternative source of energy. Their commitment to blend biofuel into their existing fossil fuels to redress carbon emission augurs well for the *Jatropha* oil industry. The large scale operations of *Jatropha* undertaken in several developing countries have oil production far below projected yield. *Jatropha* is indeed a hardy plant that can grow and thrive in infertile land to yield cheap bio-diesels fuel. Marginal inputs means marginal yields from plants and trees grown on poor lands. Consequently, there was deferment of implementation of projected areas in Myanmar, China and Africa. All these are a reflection of the many misrepresentations of the *Jatropha* performance in harsh environments. The lack of proper guidance and expertise in plantation agriculture in the implementation of the projects are the contributory causes of the poor achievement in many developing countries. The *Jatropha* industry needs relevant R & D in plantation technology to develop high yielding varieties, efficient innovations and technological advances to attract large-scale investments.*

**Keywords:** *Jatropha curcas*, biofuel crop, biodiesel, dilemma, plantation.

