



P-Glossary



Biofuel Crops

Biofuel (bioethanol, biodiesel, biogas, etc) is produced from renewable biological resources such as plant biomass, animal waste, and treated municipal and industrial waste. Crops used for the production of biofuels are called biofuel crops. At present, food crops like maize, rapeseed, canola, and soybeans are used for the production of biofuels. In Brazil, ethanol is extracted directly from sugarcane. Brazil has recently announced a new biodiesel called H-Bio that is a mixture of cottonseeds, castorbeans, sunflower seeds, and soybeans. India is promoting *Jatropha* (*Jatropha curcas*) plantation for the production of biodiesel. Palm is another source of biofuel. Algae can provide many times over the amount of oil from the highest producing crops, palm and jatropa, with the advantage that they can be cultivated in salty ponds in conjunction with carbon power plants to capture their CO₂ emissions. Biodiesel crops should preferably target land that is less favorable for food crop production such as marginal land, salt-affected land, wasteland, etc. to avoid unwarranted competition with food production.
