Environmental Implications of Jatropha Biofuel from a Silvi-Pastoral Production System in Central-West Brazil

Presented at RCN-SEES for Pan American Biofuels and Bioenergy Sustainability

"Standardization of Environmental Life Cycle

Assessments of Biofuels"

22 - 25 July 2014

Rob Bailis - Associate Professor; Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies

Outline

- Some background on Jatropha LCA
- The silvi-pastoral system
	- Co-production with cattle
	- **Detoxification**
	- **Other innovations**
- Results
- Future directions

Previous work…

Environ, Sci. Technol. 2010, 44, 8684-8691

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Land Use Change from Jatropha **Curcas-Based Jet Fuel in Brazil**

ROBERT E. BAILIS^{*} AND Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. 195 Prospect St New Haven, Connecticut 06517, United States

Received June 7, 2010. Revised manuscript received October 12, 2010. Accepted October 12, 2010.

This analysis presents a comparison of life-cycle GHG emissions from synthetic paraffinic kerosene (SPK) produced as jet fuel substitute from jatropha curcas feedstock cultivated in Brazil against a reference scenario of conventional jet fuel. Life cycle inventory data are derived from surveys of actual Jatropha growers and processors. Results indicate that a baseline scenario, which assumes a medium yield of 4 tons of dry fruit per hectare under drip irrigation with existing logistical conditions using energy-based coproduct allocation methodology, and assumes a 20-year plantation lifetime with no direct land use change (dLUC), results in the emissions of 40 kg CO₁e per GJ of fuel produced, a 55% reduction relative to conventional jet fuel. However, dLUC based on observations of land-use transitions leads to widely varying changes in carbon stocks ranging from losses in excess of 50 tons of carbon per hectare when Jatropha is planted in native cerrado woodlands to gains of 10-15 tons of carbon per hectare when Jatropha is planted in former agro-pastoral land. Thus, aggregate emissions vary from a low of 13 kg CO2e per GJ when Jatropha is planted in former agro-pastoral lands, an 85% decrease from the reference scenario, to 141 kg CO₁e per GJ when Jatropha is planted in cerrado woodlands, a 60% increase over the reference scenario. Additional sensitivities are also explored, including changes in yield, exclusion of irrigation, shortened supply chains, and alternative allocation methodologies

1 Introduction

This paper presents a life-cycle assessment of synthetic paraffinic kerosene (SPK) derived from jatropha cureas
feedstock (hereafter referred to as Jatropha) based on growing conditions in Brazil. SPK is a drop-in substitute for jet fuel that can be produced from vegetable oil $(1, 2)$. Direct combustion of jet fuel for commercial aviation is responsible for roughly 2% of global CO₂ emissions (.3). Additional forcing associated with aviation increases the net impact from 3 to as much as 6% of anthropogenic forcing (ref 4, cited in ref 5). Further, aviation is among the fastest growing transpor tation sectors, with annual growth rates of 5% projected for the coming decade (5). The International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents the majority of the
world's commercial airlines, has pledged "carbon neutral growth" beginning in 2020 and further defined an "aspira-

* Corresponding author e-mail: robert.bailis@yale.edu; phone: $+1$
200 432 5412; fax: $+1$ 200 436 9158.

8684 . ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY / VOL. 44, NO. 22, 2010 with Jenn Baka

onal goal" of 50% CO₂ emissions reductions from 2005 levels by 2050 (6). To meet these goals, airlines may rely on several options: improving technical and operational efficiency, fleet turnover, and retrofits, as well as biofuels (7). Biofue among the largest contributor mission reductions, with IATA by 2020 (6).

Commercial airlines have co with blends of biobased and co several feedstocks including stimates that jet fuels derive CO₂ emissions by 80% relative tould reduce emissions by app CIF baseline. However, actuals by substituting CJF with SPK de practices, as well as coproduct odologies, and land use cha reduction is achievable only t

for eaxmale, if there is not can

use change or under certain However, if land use change then reductions will be smalle are high, may lead to net incre have shown in the case of gro We focus on production in position as a major biofuel a
exporter makes it a potential roduction (12). At the time of t ughly 40 000 ha of Jatropha arge plantations and small-scal has been a major push by EMBI search and support organiza Prior investigations into latror on conditions in Asia, leaving where, particularly Latin Amer
ther, while biofuels for ground a good deal of attention from
research about biofuels for av Native to Central America, expansion, Jatropha is now c
subtropical regions (15). This plant's ability to survive in han to cite latropha's potential no but also as a tool to help a developing regions by providing
(16). By 2008, Jatropha projects 50 countries across Asia. Africa over one million ha (12).

However, investment appe to find optimal varieties and ide (15, 17). Claims of the plant's areas with yery few innuts have (9, 15). Inputs such as fertilizer cases, irrigation, have been utili:
to make their investments ecach input affects the crop's en adding to life-cycle energy ar A. LUC in Biofuel LCAs. I. ssue in biofuel LCA, Current a into direct (dLUC) and indires distinction that falls in line w Directland use change (dl.UC) within the system boundary: of natural vegetation with bi cultivation incurs an upfron changing land cover, it create

10.1021/ex101912

BIOENERGY

GCB Bioenergy (2011), doi: 10.1111/j.1757-1707.2011.01100.x

Carbon impacts of direct land use change in semiarid woodlands converted to biofuel plantations in India and Brazil

ROB BAILIS and HEATHER MCCARTHY Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, 195 Prospect St, New Haven, CT 06511, USA

Abstract

We present an analysis of direct land use change (dLUC) resulting from the conve semiarid woodlands in Brazil and India to Jatropha curcas, a perennial biofuel ci sites examined include prosopis woodlands, managed for woodfuel productio periodic coppicing, in southern India, and unmanaged caatinga woodlands Brazilian state of Minas Gerais. The jatropha plantations under consideration pruned and unpruned stands and ranged from 2 to 4 years of age. Stocks of ca aboveground (AG) pools, including woody biomass, coarse debris, leaf lit herbaceous matter, as well as soil organic carbon (SOC) were evaluated. The plantations store 8-10 tons of carbon per hectare (t Cha⁻¹) in AG biomass and litt managed with regular pruning in both India and Brazil. Unpruned trees, only ex in Brazil, store less biomass (and carbon), accumulating just 3t Cha⁻¹ in AG po two woodlands that were replaced with jatropha show substantial differences in pools: prosopis contains \sim 11 t C ha⁻¹ in AG stocks of carbon, which was very clo jatropha stand which replaced it. In contrast, caatinga stores ~35t Cha⁻¹ in AG ł Moreover, no change in SOC was detected in land that was converted from Pro jatropha. As a result, there is no detectable change in AG carbon stocks at the South India where jatropha replaced prosopis woodlands. In contrast, large losse carbon were detected in Central Brazil where jatropha replaced native caating lands. These losses represent a carbon debt that would take 10-20 years to repa

Keyaords: biofuels, Caatinga woodlands, direct land use change (dLUC), greenhouse gas e Jatropha curcas, Prosopis juliflora

Received 16 December 2010 and accepted 15 January 2011

Introduction

This paper presents an analysis of direct land use change (dLUC) resulting from the conversion of woodlands to biofuel plantations at semiarid sites in both India and Brazil. Each country is currently pursuing biofuel policies that call for rapid expansion of oilseedbased biofuel production in the near future. For example, Brazilian policy calls for a 40% blend of biodiesel by 2035 (Government of Brazil, 2006) and India's biofuel mandate calls for a 20% blend of biodiesel by 2017 (Government of India, 2009). In addition to production for the domestic market, export-oriented production to meet demand in other countries may increase future cultivation. This is particularly true in Brazil, which is

Correspondence: Rob Bailis, tel. + 1 203 432 5412, fax + 1 203 436 9158, e-mail: robert bailis@yale.edu

@ 2011 Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

with Heather McCarthy

soybeans (a common feedstock for in the US and EU, USDA FAS, 200 biodiesel export constitutes a maj the government's national biofuel p ernment of Brazil, 2006).

based biofuel has focused largely and postharvest processes like oil version to fuel. While land use c knowledged as having a potential life-cycle emissions, there has bee search quantifying the actual effect Instead, LUC research focuses indi-(iLUC), or on dLUC estimated with

already a major exporter of cane

To date, research on carbon by those published in the IPCCs 'Gui

 $0.1 - 1$

Environmental Implications of Jatropha Biofuel from a Silvi-Pastoral **Production System in Central-West Brazil**

Rob Bailis* and Goksin Kaylak

Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, 195 Prospect Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06517, United States

Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: We present a life cycle assessment of synthetic paraffinic kerosene produced from latropha curcas. The feedstock is grown in an intercropping arrangement with pasture grasses so that Jatropha is coproduced with cattle. Additional innovations are introduced including hybrid seeds, detoxification of jatropha seedcake, and cogeneration. Two fuel pathways are examined including a newly developed catalytic decarboxylation process. Examined manually a mewny usercupped cannot secure
operations are examined including higher planting density at the expense of
cattle production as well as 50% lower yields. Intercropping with pasture and
detoxifying seedc Brazil's forests and indirectly reduce environmental impacts of biofuel production. Other innovations also reduce impacts. Results of the baseline assessment indicate that innovations would reduce impacts relative to the fossil fuel reference scenario in most categories including 62-75% reduction

in greenhouse gas emissions, 64–82% reduction in release of ozone depleting chemicals, 33–52% reduction in smog-forming
polintants, 6–25% reduction in acidification, and 60–72% reduction in use of nontenewable energy. Sys improve with higher planting density, and persist if yield is reduced by half.

N INTRODUCTION

Questions about environmental sustainability of biofuels have Questions arour environmental sustainables of society groups, and
governments.¹⁸³ Food security and land use change (LUC) are
topics of particular concern^{4,5} To address these concerns, policies have been developed that favor cultivation on marginal land.⁶ Jatropha curcas (hereafter jatropha) seemed to be an ideal crop for this application.⁷ However, early experiences with jatropha showed that, although it can survive in marginal conditions, it is not likely to be commercially viable unless cultivated on more favorable land.⁸ Independent of debates over biofuels, agricultural intensification, particularly cattle production in the tropics, has been identified as a way to reduce
negative LUC.^{9,10} This study examines the environmental impacts of a biofuel production system currently being implemented in the Central-Western Brazilian state of Mate Grosso do Sul, in which jatropha is intercropped with cattle pasture. The project has also introduced a number of other innovations including hybrid seeds, detoxification of jatropha seedcake (JSC), and cogeneration and is exploring an alternative refining process. Collectively, these innovations significantly lower the environmental impacts associated with biofuel production relative to the reference scenario of fossil based jet fuel.

Biofuels and Aviation. Biofuels are used primarily in ground transport; however, there is substantial interest in developing biofuels for aviation.¹¹ The aviation sector is currently responsible for approximately 2% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.¹² However, it is among the fastest growing segments of the transport sector, particularly in developing countries. Various measures to cut aviation emissions have been introduced including biofuels. The most common pathway used to produce jet fuel with biomass is through hydro-processed esters and fatty acids (HEFA), which yield a synthetic paraffinic kerosene (SPK) that closely
resembles conventional jet fuel (CJF).¹¹ Test flights were conducted and several airlines have carried out commercial
flights using blends of HEFA-based SPK.^{13,14} Several HEFA mans unig vients or rist-reviewed or chemical inductions are being explored including "catalytic-treating"
(HEFA-CHT) and "catalytic decarboxylation" (HEFA-CDC).^{15.16} The end products are very similar, but the processes and coproducts are quite different. As we discuss in more detail
below, HEFA-CHT requires more hydrogen and more raw materials than HEFA-CDC and also produces more coproducts. As a result, the life cycle impacts of the two pathways are different, but the magnitude and, in some cases, direction of the difference is sensitive to allocation methodologies.

Several life cycle assessments (LCAs) have been conducted of SPK produced via the HEFA-CHT pathway including SPK derived from jatropha.¹⁷⁻¹⁹ However, no assessments have yet
been conducted of the HEFA-CDC pathway, although a few

Received: October 9, 2012 Revised: May 10, 2013 Accepted: May 28, 2013 Published: May 28, 2013

7/23/14 Bailis - RCN "LCA" with Goksin Kavlak 3

Jatropha WTW GHGs using generic Brazilian conditions in 2009 (no LUC)

What about LUC?

Project-based LCA

- Site-specific silvi-pastoral production
- Utilizing existing pasture – 160 Mha of pasture in Brazil – 10 Mha is "degraded"
- Multiple innovations
- Generalizable to other perennial species?

Innovations

- 1. Silvipastoral production
	- Co-produce oilseeds and cattle
- 2. Detoxify press-cake and use animal feed
- 3. Use hybrid seeds
- 4. Oil extraction with locally produced ethanol
- 5. Cogeneration using husks and shells
- 6. Alternative refining pathway

Goal and Scope

Compare environmental impacts of conventional jet fuel to Jatropha-SPK produced in a novel silvi-pastoral system*

• System boundaries

Farm + Oil Extraction + Refining

- Functional unit
	- 1 GJ of fuel
- Treatment of co-products
	- Mass, energy, and economic allocation
	- System expansion

Innovations

- 1. Co-produce oilseeds and cattle
- 2. Detoxify press-cake and use animal feed
- 3. Use hybrid seeds
- 4. Oil extraction with locally produced ethanol
- 5. Cogeneration using husks and shells
- 6. Alternative refining pathway

- Stocking 2 AU* per ha
- Inputs nourish pasture and Jatropha

* AU = Animal Unit - 450 kg live weight

- Annual productivity per ha:
	- Jatropha 1.95 tons dry seed plus co-products
	- $-$ Pasture $10-17$ t/ha
	- Cattle 2 UA (900 kg)

• Cattle produced here displace cattle produced elsewhere

…*where and by how much?*

* UA = Unidade Animal = 450 kg live weight $_{Bailis - RCN}$ "LCA" 12

- Co-produced cattle might displace:
	- Cattle in managed, natural, or degraded pasture
	- Cattle grazing in recently deforested land

- Emissions from 1 AU:
	- Enteric fermentation: 56 kg CH₄ per year
	- Manure: 1 kg CH₄ and 1.2 kg N₂O per year
	- Inputs: NPK, diesel…
	- Land cover change:
		- Degraded small increase in C
		- Managed pasture no change C
		- Forest large C emissions avoided Stocking rate in forest regions 0.9 AU/ha Carbon stocks \sim 150 t-C/ha (IPCC)

Cederberg et al (2011):

- ~6% of Brazil's cattle were produced on recently cut forest in LAR
- 44 kg CO2e/kg cattle averaged over all regions
- 352 kgCO₂e per FU

Including Carbon Emissions from Deforestation in the Carbon **Footprint of Brazilian Beef**

Christel Cederberg,^{**} U. Martin Persson,^{*,1} Kristian Neovius,^{\$} Sverker Molander,¹ and Roland Clift¹

¹SIK, the Swedish Institute of Food and Biotechnology, 402 29 Göteborg, Sweden

⁴Center of Globalization and Development, Department of Economics, University of Gothenburg, 405 30 Göteborg, Sweden ⁵Department of Public Health Sciences, Karolinska Institute, 171 76 Stockholm, Sweden

¹Department of Energy and Environment, Chalmers University of Technology, 412 96 Göteborg, Sweden

Centre for Environmental Strategy, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XH, U.K.

O Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Effects of land use changes are starting to be included in estimates of life-cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, so called carbon footprints (CFs), from food production. Their omission can lead to serious underestimates, particularly for meat. Here we estimate emissions from the conversion of forest to pasture in the Legal Amazon Region (LAR) of Brazil and present a model to distribute the emissions from deforestation over products and time subsequent to the land use change. Expansion of cattle ranching
for beef production is a major cause of deforestation in the LAR. The carbon footprint of b to the optimated at more than 700 kg CO₂ equivalents per kg careas weight if direct ind use emissions are annualized over 20 years. This is estimated at more than 700 kg CO₂ equivalents per kg careas weight if direct and this should be reflected in the carbon footprint attributed to beef exports. We conclude that carbon footprint standards must include the more extended effects of land use changes to avoid giving misleading information to policy makers, retailers, and consumers.

INTRODUCTION

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from land use Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from land use
change (LUC) have been estimated at around 17% of total
anthropogenic GHG emissions in 2004.¹ A key driver of deforestation is the expansion of pastures for beef production in South America and estimates indicate that LUC, mainly deforestation, caused by the growing livestock sector is the source of approximately 6% of global GHG emissions.²

Brazil is the world's second largest beef producer, with exports having increased 7-fold during the past decade, and the world's top exporter of beef. In 2006 production totaled 8.6 million tons (MT) carcass weight (CW), of which 24% was exported.³ The Legal
Amazon region (LAR, an administrative unit which includes the nine states of Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima, Tocantins, Mato Grosso and most of Maranhão state) is of growing importance for Beazilian beef production (see Supporting Information, SI). In 2006, nearly 25% of Brazil's beef production came from the nine states of the LAR where continuous grazing all year around is the predominant feeding strategy.^{4,5} There has been a steady expansion of pasture area in the LAR over recent decades,⁶ at the expense of natural forests;⁷ gross deforestation rates in this region averaged \sim 1.9 million hectares (Mha) per year in the period 1986- 2005^8 and several studies show that pasture is the main subsequent land use occupying $60-75\%$ of newly deforested land. $^{9-11}$ At present, there is widespread interest in better understand

ing various products' life cycle GHG emissions, so-called "carbor

ACS Publications C2011 American Chemical Society

footprints" (CF), a term used for example by the British Standards Institution and in International Organization for Standardization (ISO) working documents to describe the GHG emissions attributable to providing a specific product or service. The main purpose of estimating CFs is to provide information for policy-making, for supply chain management, and to facilitate a shift by retailers and consumers toward low carbon products.¹

Examples of CF reporting standards include The British PAS 2009-2008 which sets out a prescriptive method for assessing CFs of goods and services¹³ and ongoing work to develop international standards for CF calculations by the ISO¹⁴ and World Resources Institute & World Business Council for Sustainable Development.¹⁵ These initiatives build on exist ing life cycle assessment (LCA) methods. However, while LCA has already been used extensively to assess the environmental performance of food including GHG emissions, emissions from LUC are not routinely included.¹⁶ Their omission leads to substantial underestimates of food products total impact on climate change, and this is especially the case for beef.²

1773

dx.doi.org/10.1021/es103240z | Brwinn, Sci. Technol. 2011, 45, 1773-1779

2. Press-cake detox

- Press-cake detoxification
	- 1 dry ton of seed yields 250kg of Jatropha seedcake (JSC)
		- 60% protein
	- Assume product displaces soymeal
		- 19% domestic animal feed market in Brazil (USDA)
		- Corn has bigger market share
		- maybe more realistic to displace maize?

2. Press-cake detox

- Press-cake detoxification
	- Substitution on a protein basis
		- 1 kg Jatropha presscake \approx 1.3 kg soymeal
	- -0.7 kg CO₂e/kg soymeal (Ecolnvent, 2010)
	- -16 -18 kgCO₂e per FU via soymeal displacement

3. Hybrid seeds

- Yield
	- Originally expected 3.5 kg/tree
	- Revised down to 2.4 kg/tree
		- Tested sensitivity @ 1.2 kg/tree
- Spacing
	- 8x1 with large alleys for pasture
	- Considered monoculture @ 4x1

- · Improved yields
- Vigor and uniformity
- Reduced input costs
- Enhanced logistics & processing

4. Ethanol as solvent

- Replace hexane or pentane
	- Saves energy and reduces emissions

5. Cogeneration

• Cogen using seedcake and husks

6. Alternative refining pathways

From<http://www.uop.com/green-jet-fuel/> From http://www.syngest.com/AliphaJet/images/img_flow_graphic.jpg

Results (system expansion not shown)

Results

• Reduced impacts in most indicators

• Improvements are robust across allocation methodologies

• Improvements persist if yields are 50% lower than expected

Remaining questions

- Carbon dynamics:
	- trees, pasture, and soil?
- Reality check on results:
	- Soy and cattle displacement
- The project failed and SG pulled out of Brazil…why?
- What are future prospects for silvipastoral-based production of oilseed feedstocks?

"A Gol aircraft is fueled with bio-kerosene in Rio; in particular, macaúba fruit and cane sugar, used to produce biofuel." From p. 141 of *this month's* GOL in-flight magazine

Thanks! Obrigado! Gracias!

G AIRBUS for funding the Jatropha research

Collaboration with Goksin Kavlak (Yale), SG Biofuels, JetBio and Rio Pardo Bioenergia

Land use change

• Little impact shifting from managed/degraded pasture to Jatropha:

> 1 t-C per ha lost from managed pasture ~11.6 kg CO2e/GJ lost over 20 years

3 t-C gained in degraded pasture ~5.0 kg CO2e/GJ gained over 20 years

Scenarios

LCA methodologies

• Our approach:

- Collect primary data
- Follow accepted LCA protocols
	- Allocate with system expansion when possible
- Use LCA software common to industry and academia
- Undergo extensive peer review

Allocation

Fonte: IBGE, Censo Agropecuário 1940/2006.

Allocation factors

Table S1: Factors used to allocate impacts among co-products by energy, mass or economic value (8x1 spacing)^a

Reference scenario

• Fossil jet fuel

Sensitivity to spacing and yield

	allocation methodology									
	economic		energy		mass		no allocation		system expansion	
impact category ^b	CHT	CDC	CHT	CDC	CHT	CDC	CHT	CDC	CHT	CDC
GHG	$-24%$	$-34%$	$-33%$	$-45%$	$-30%$	$-42%$	$-41%$	$-51%$	82%	78%
ODP	8%	5%	$-19%$	$-14%$	$-15%$	$-12%$	$-23%$	$-18%$	$-12%$	$-38%$
PCO	6%	6%	$-19%$	$-20%$	$-17%$	$-18%$	$-22%$	$-23%$	$-8%$	$-7%$
ACID	8%	9%	$-14%$	$-16%$	$-13%$	$-14%$	$-17%$	$-18%$	$-161%$	$-192%$
EUT	12%	12%	$-16%$	$-16%$	$-14%$	$-14%$	$-19%$	$-19%$	$-19%$	$-14%$
NRE	5%	7%	$-13%$	$-17%$	$-11%$	$-15%$	$-17%$	$-21%$	$-22%$	$-51%$

Table 2. Differences in Impacts between 8×1 Intercropping and 4×1 Monoculture^a

^aNegative entries (shaded) indicate the 4 \times 1 monoculture system performs better than the 8 \times 1 intercropping system. ^bImpact categories are defined in Figure 2.

Table 3. Relative Increase in Each Category of Impacts Resulting if Yield Is 50% Lower than Expected with Inputs Held Constant in the 8×1 Intercropping Scenario

^aImpact categories are defined in Figure 2.

Results – system expansion

