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## **Eco-Carbone's jatropha project in Vietnam**

Since 2006, Eco-Carbone has conducted pre-feasibility studies in a number of provinces throughout Vietnam. In this process, Eco-Carbone has identified areas where agro-ecological conditions are suitable for jatropha cultivation to develop projects in partnership with farmer communities.

In 2009, Eco-Carbone selected Binh Thuan (South Vietnam) as a province with very strong potential in terms of agro-ecological conditions, availability of unused, barren land and motivation of local partners and authorities.

Eco-Energy Vietnam is a joint venture created in 2010 between Eco-Carbone, which now owns 79% of the company, the rest of the shares are owned by French and Vietnamese partners.

## **A development opportunity for Vietnamese farmers**

Jatropha is well integrated in the local farming system by providing local farmers a potential new source of income without competition with food crops, which are not cultivated on the sandy loams.

Jatropha plays a dynamic role in rural development by:

- creating of a new significant income on the long-term for farmers
- reducing wind and water erosion thanks to jatropha hedges
- transferring agronomic knowledge through free technical support for farmers
- fighting climate change through carbon sequestration and replacement of fossil fuels by renewable energy

In 2011, Eco-Energy Vietnam supported the establishment of 50 ha of jatropha plantations after farmer trainings and the supply of quality jatropha seedlings free of cost. Moreover, Eco-Carbone set up a processing unit in the Bac Binh district aiming to press 30 Kg of jatropha grains per hour.

In January 2012, 95 families have already joined Eco-Energy Vietnam's project project by choosing to plant jatropha this year. This represents an expansion of more than 100 ha.

The potential amount of land in this province amounts to at least 5,000 ha.

## **Our other projects in Vietnam**

### **Castor production: a new income for farmers**

Production and sale of castor grain could also be an opportunity for Vietnamese producers on sandy soil. In order to study the feasibility of this production, several preliminary tests for different species of castor were done by Eco-Energy in 2011. The study will be continued in 2012.

### **A natural insecticide based on neem**

Many plantations of neem trees already exist in Binh Thuan and Ninh Thuan, the neighboring province. However, till date there are few or no buyers to purchase neem fruits from the farmers.

Eco-Carbone foresees to use the powerful insecticidal properties of the neem kernel to produce a bio-pesticide. This product would be used as a preventive and curative treatment to control jatropha pests and for other crops, for which there is a growing demand in Vietnam for more integrated pest management and lower levels of chemical pesticide use (such as fruit and vegetable crops).