


EAT FUEL: BIOFUELS IN ASIA

CORE

the centre for organisation
research & education

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CLIMATE CHANGE IS HUMAN INDUCED
IT HAS CONSEQUENCES FOR HUMANITY
OUR CONCERNS ON THIS ISSUE ARE
ANTHROPOCENTRIC
WE HAVE A FAIRLY FIXED SET OF IDEAS
ABOUT WHAT WE ARE PREPARED TO
SURRENDER TO SURVIVE
THE EARTH MIGHT DISAGREE WITH THEM



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THE PRESENT NEGOTIATION ON BIOFUELS IS
BASED ON THE USE OF MINOR MODIFICATIONS
TO EXISTING MOTORIZED AND INDUSTRIAL
POWER MACHINERY

IT IS ALSO PREDICATED ON ENERGY USE AT
CURRENT OR ESCALATED LEVELS

AND ON THE SAME THINGS WE SPENT IT BEFORE
OR THE SAME KINDS OF THINGS: TRANSPORT,
TEMPERATURE REGULATION, THE
TRANSFORMATION OF NECESSITIES INTO
LUXURIES

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EACH OF US USES MORE FOOD, WATER, SHELTER,
MEDICINE, TRANSPORT THAN EVER BEFORE

MORE OF US USE THESE

IN TERMS OF ENERGY, THEY COST MORE TO
PRODUCE

THEY CAUSE MORE AND MORE TOXIC WASTE AND
USE EVER SCARCER RESOURCES



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IN SIMPLE TERMS WE ARE RUNNING OUT
OF THE THINGS WE NEED,

WE ARE USING THEM UP FASTER THAN
EVER

WE ARE PRODUCING THINGS THAT ARE
POISONOUS TO US

WE ARE PRODUCING MORE OF THEM



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BIOFUELS SAY THEY ARE THE ANSWER
BUT WHAT IS THE QUESTION?

Is the question:

How can I keep running my car?

How can I keep having 3 vacations a year?

How can I keep eating expensively packaged food?

How can I keep 3 houses in 3 different countries?

And visit them every year, too?

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Because Biofuel costs:

1. Land that is needed for food crops and forests
2. Water that is needed to drink and clean
3. Labour that is needed to produce these
4. Polluting factories that will produce the motors that burn biofuels

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Biofuels are also costing:

New armed conflicts over land in at least 7 countries in Asia, in at least 12 states in India

Aggravation and escalation of at least 5 major existing such conflicts over lands and waters in India

These wars themselves destroy land quality, contaminate water and air and take by death or damage by crippling, over 300 human lives every month

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The increase in cropping area for biofuels to be cost and climate effective will destroy half the remaining forest lands in south asia

They will also implicate over half the available irrigation and potable waters

About a third of agricultural land will have to go under biofuels for it to demonstrate economic effectiveness

South Asia already has the worst poverty profile of all the regions in the world



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South Asia is politically socially and economically unstable:

- ◆ each country suffers from multiple internal conflicts
- ◆ each country is increasing already massive economic disparities
- ◆ each country has a large mobilized disenfranchised population of tribal or indigenous peoples

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India alone has the present intention of developing 11MHa of jatropha to produce 13 MT of biodiesel and has further plans of extending this over 40MHa of "wasteland"

Large private corporations are receiving support for this including access to lands which are indigenous territories in more than 6 states in India

Conflicts over land between indigenous, small farmers, marginal and landless on one side are developing with corporate, government agencies and private landlords in each state that is earmarked land for biofuel cultivation

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With water problems in tea, sugarcane and cotton affecting crops, lands previously devoted to this are being considered for jatropha now

Land for food cultivation is scarcer and government obligations to marginal farmers, indigenous people are being violated with private acquisition

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Benefits to the poor of trickle down economics have evaporated between global recession and climate change

Over 16 million from the 6 prioritized states may be displaced if the intended scale of jatropha plantation is realized

Where will they go?

Khuramjari
thank you for your attention

To it's poor, will India say:
"NO FOOD? EAT FUEL":

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