

Gota Verde Update April 2007

This Gota Verde update gives a summary of the main events during the first four months of the project, from January until April 2007. As can be expected, the main progress has been made in WP1 (Coordination) in order to have the needed capacity in the field to start operations in Honduras. Also WP3 has received special attention, because in May the rainy season (and thus season for planting) starts.

This update gives you an overview of the main developments per Work Package.

WP 1. Coordination

1. Consultative Committee. The first Consultative Committee has been organised on March 19-20 with the participation of representatives of FHIA, FUNDER, HIVOS and STRO. During the meeting the project was presented and a planning of the coming months was discussed; including the process of establishing a field office. A report of this meeting is still in preparation and will be send to you in the course of the coming weeks.

2. Selection process of local Project Coordinator. The vacancy was published in February in several newspapers in Honduras and generated significant response. This process has been delayed due to the late withdrawal of the main candidate in the process, which resulted in new interviews to be held. We expect to contract the Project Coordinator in the second half of April.

3. Selection process of a Junior Professional (JP). The function of this JP is to facilitate knowledge transfer between the European technical partners (FACT, AGERATEC, Dajolka, Fokkink, PPO Groeneveld) and the local counterparts. This vacancy was published at the beginning of March. A candidate was selected (an agronomist) with experience in Jatropha research with additional "feeling" for the more technical components of the project (processing and engine adaptation). It is expected that the candidate will reinforce the Coordination Team by the end of May.

4. Mission of HIVOS. As part of his mission to Central America, Harrie Oppenoorth participated in the Consultative Committee. During this mission administrative details were discussed and contacts

between the HIVOS regional office in Costa Rica and the subcontracted organisations in Honduras were made. The main contact person between HIVOS Costa Rica and the project will be Raquel Chacon. A delegation of HIVOS and STRO also visited the EC delegation in Honduras.

5. To facilitate discussions between project partners, the internal Gota Verde Forum has been opened: please refer to : <http://www.gotaverde.org/forum/> Please feel free to use this tool to raise any project related issues for discussion.

WP 3. Agriculture

A decision has been made to increase the # of ha of plantations from 350 to 700 ha. This decision was taken by the coordinator with inputs from FACT and AGERATEC about expected yields, investment and operational costs. It has been determined that with less production it would be very difficult to reach the break-even point within 3 years.

2. Negotiation of subcontracts with FUNDER and FHIA. The first step was for the Coordinator to prepare two Terms of References for a combination of tasks, one for FHIA and a second for FUNDER. Consultant Winfried Rijssenbeek (of RR Energy, one of the associates of FACT) has been hired to revise the Terms of References and conduct the negotiations. A mission was undertaken by the consultant from March 11 to 21. The knowledge of Mr. Rijssenbeek about the technical aspects, the country and project design in general has contributed to good results in the negotiation phase. Contracts for 12 months will be signed in the beginning of April between HIVOS and FUNDER and HIVOS and FHIA.

3. Organisation and participation in international Jatropha Seminar. The 3-day Seminar "Jatropha Curcas - Agronomy and Genetics", organised by FACT took place from March 26 to 28 and gathered the world's most respected agricultural researchers dealing with Jatropha. To take advantage of this wealth of , various persons involved in the Gota Verde project participated: Ywe Franken (FACT, member of the organizing committee), Mario Maura (STRO), Titus Galema (STRO) and Peter Moers (STRO). Interesting contacts were made. The contacts most relevant for the project are with projects and experts from Guatemala (Octagon), Belize and Nicaragua. An overview of the conclusions, presentations and participants of the seminar will be published soon on the webpage of FACT: <http://www.fact-fuels.org>.

WP 4. Processing

1. Offers have been received for the pressing and transesterification equipment. On the basis of these estimates, FUNDER will conduct a feasibility study and Business Plan. This study may give rise for further revisions during the coming months.

WP 5. Engine adaptation

1. Information has been gathered regarding engines that can be adapted in the Yoro region. It is clear that due to the lack of personnel in the region, this inventory is far from complete.
2. Estimates were received about the conversion costs for engines.

Main priorities for the next three months:

WP 1. Coordination:

- Operationalisation of the Coordination Team (CT), consisting of a coordinator, a local agronomist and a Junior Professional.
- Installation of a joint field office for the CT and field staff of FUNDER and FHIA.

WP3. Agriculture

- Identification of 200 ha for oil yielding crop plantations (mainly Jatropha)

Gota Verde updates will be sent every 3 months.

With kind regards,

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