

Abstract

Planting trees in coastal deserts could capture carbon dioxide, reduce harsh desert temperatures, boost rainfall, revitalise soils and produce cheap bio fuels. Large-scale plantations of the hardy jatropha tree, *Jatropha curcas*, could help sequester carbon dioxide through a process known as 'carbon farming', according to a study based on data gathered in Mexico and Oman that was published in *Earth System Dynamics* last month (31 July). The technique is competitive with high-tech carbon capture and storage. A jatropha plantation covering just three per cent of the Arabian Desert could “absorb all the carbon dioxide produced by cars in Germany over two decades”, according to the study’s lead author, Klaus Becker. In this talk, I will talk about the **potential and benefits of Jatropha cultivation in India.**

About the Speaker

Dr. Anumakonda Jagadeesh obtained his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Physics from Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India, and his Doctorate degree in Wind Energy from the prestigious University of Roorkee {now the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR)}. He has been involved in teaching and research for the last 30 years. He founded "Society of Science for the People" in 1973, an NGO which has been acting to formulate innovative science and technology programs and projects. Further, Dr. Jagadeesh also founded "Nayudamma Centre for Development Alternatives" in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, India (since 1994) which has been acting as a think tank in promoting Energy, Environment, and Appropriate Technology programs and projects.

Dr. Jagadeesh is currently Professor and Head, Centre for Energy and Sustainable Resources, R.M.K. Engineering College, Kavaraipettai, Tamil Nadu, India. He is also Vice Chancellor (Scientific Communications), of the Australian Institute of High Energetic materials, Clayton, Victoria, Australia. Dr. Jagadeesh's pioneering work has won him several international and national awards including the prestigious "Margaret Noble Foundation, Seattle" Award for Research in Energy. He has membership in several international and government bodies in India.