

JatroMed Project; Demonstration case in Adrar, Algeria

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According to the Jatropha belt of cultivation around the world, the southern part of Algeria is appropriate for its cultivation. The city of Adrar, located at 1600 km south west of Algiers, has been chosen for implementing the JatroMed demonstration site. It is a growing city with increasing agricultural and industrial activities. The whole region is characterized by its very arid Saharan climate; very hot and dry in the summer, cold nights in winter and very poor rainfall, in addition to seasonal sand storms. It is known for having high water potential from underground continental intercalary layer. The plantation has been established in a marginal land with availability of brackish water. The Jatropha seeds germination was satisfactory in nursery, while in the field, the plants evolution is considered interesting accounting local climate conditions. However, these extreme environmental conditions make the Jatropha plantation in Adrar of great importance since it will reveal the plant adaptability under very harsh weather conditions.