

Evaluation technico-économique des systèmes de culture pour la production d'huile végétale dans un but énergétique en Tunisie

Fulvio Pernice

Organizzazione per lo Sviluppo delle Energie Alternative, Rinnovabili, Cooperazione ed Health - S.E.A.R.C.H. ONG, Via Don Oriove 65, 90142, Palermo, Italy. Email: prohuve@gmail.com

The last few years have witnessed both a dramatic increase in the price of energy oil and an increase in the production of biofuels like ethanol and biodiesel. Expansion of biofuels raises a variety of concerns, such as the increase in food prices and its impact on the poor, the expansion of agricultural land and its impact on natural habitats, increase in use of agrichemicals, etc. In addition to socio-economic issues concerning the possible use of land (for food crops or energy crops), it has to be said that the impressive spreading out of energy crops in the world is happening sometimes, without having properly evaluated a priori the possible impacts on the environment. Some of these aspects were evaluated in PRO.HU.V.E. project (www.prohuve.eu): it is a two-year European funded project, regarding the evaluation of technical and economic aspects as well as assessment of environmental impacts of different biofuel crops for energy oil production (bio-diesel) in Tunisia. In addition to a technical and economic evaluation of some cropping systems (both trees and herbaceous crops: *Jatropha curcas* L., *Moringa oleifera* Lam. and *Brassica carinata* A. Braun) suitable for the biofuel crop production (biodiesel), the evaluation of some ecological impacts of these crops in the agro-Tunisians ecosystems was carried out.