

## **Biomass Energy in Algeria: Present status and Prospect**

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Algeria counts about 35 million people scattered over 2.485 million km<sup>2</sup>. 97% of the population have access to the electricity and 50% have access to the natural gas network. However, 80% of the population live on less than 5% of the territory (mainly in the northern part of the country), 15% of the population live on about 8% of the territory (in the high plains) and 5% (around two million people) of the population live on about 87% of the territory which represent more than two million km<sup>2</sup>.

This means long distances to transport energy to this population. In order to reduce the cost, to guarantee the availability of the energy, and to comply with the Kyoto protocol, different measures have been taken to encourage the use of renewable energies.

The strategy put down in Algeria in order to develop renewable energies on different sides (legislation, financial encouragement, research, demonstration prototype, etc) was presented. The experience gotten in different renewable energy fields and some difficulties in implementing them was also introduced. It was shown that bio energy was the most promising one, since it could bring more autonomy to local population, it could ensure a more sustainable development and improve the quality of life in isolated regions, it could increase the job creation and reduce poverty, it could increase the use of indigenous materials, preserve fossil fuel, reduce greenhouse gas emission and let the country comply with Kyoto protocol.