

## ***Jatropha (Ekiroowa) could provide extra income to a Vanilla farmer***

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**J**atropha Circus is a drought resistant perennial plant, which grows well in marginal soils. It is easy to establish and, it grows relatively quickly and lives producing seeds for 50 years. Jatropha plant produces seeds with an oil content of 37%. The oil can be combusted as fuel without being refined. It burns with a clear flame, tested successfully as fuel for simple diesel engines. The by products are press cake which is a good organic fertilizer and the oil also contains insecticide.

Jatropha trees not only bear oil rich seeds but can also be planted in the form of hedges to protect gardens and fields from foraging animals while warding off soil erosion. It is possible to speak of a positive feedback between oil production and agricultural production. The more oil is produced by the hedgerows of Jatropha plants, the more food production is strengthened. Of particular importance here is

the recycling of the oil cake as organic fertilizer.

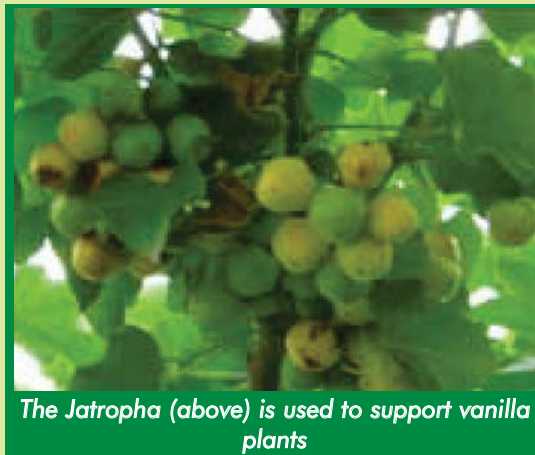
### **Importance of the Jatropha**

**Controls Soil Erosion:** Jatropha hedges reduce wind velocity and fix small earth dams against water run off  
**Strengthening economic independence of Women:**

Most women entrepreneurs use it as raw material for soap production. The Jatropha oil can also be combined with other local plant oils such as Shea butter to produce larger amounts of refined soap.

**Poverty reduction:** the exploitation of one 1 km of Jatropha hedge can generate about US\$250 for rural. If this is promoted, the integrated utilization of the plant can provide direct financial benefits.

**Energy:** Jatropha can act as a new source of renewable energy if it is exploited. The economic analysis shows very positive impacts considering the importance highlighted above.



**The Jatropha (above) is used to support vanilla plants**

**Re-introduction of DDT in Uganda for malaria control**