

## Jatropha 2.0 – Myths vs. facts!

Myth: Jatropha is a miracle plant which gives very high yield even under desertic conditions!



### Facts

Jatropha is native to sub-humid and semi-arid regions, is hence adapted to dry environments and tolerates periods where resources such as water are limited. Ideal conditions for Jatropha growth are typically found in frost-free semi-arid and sub-humid regions of sub-Saharan Africa at low altitudes. Distinct dry seasons even have positive effects on the annual seed yield.

#### Main factors:

- rainfall of 600 to 1200mm per year,
- mean temperature of > 20°C.

Myth: Jatropha farming causes land grabbing and competes with food production!



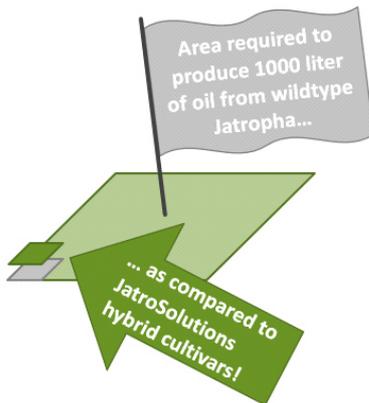
### Facts

Nowadays Jatropha farming concepts are far off monocultural plantations. Current concepts involve advanced agronomic management practices such as intercropping or living fences to integrate Jatropha farming into existing agricultural structures. Such concepts support local food production by improving soil quality in terms of organic matter, build up carbon stocks through CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration, improves water holding capacity, and protect arable land from erosion.

In addition local energy production concepts provide fuels and electricity to rural communities, which reduces pressure on ecosystems e.g. through deforestation for fire wood and charcoal production.

**Actual Jatropha farming concepts are economically, ecologically and socially sustainable.**

## Myth: Past projects gave prove that Jatropha farming is uneconomic!



### Facts

Past projects failed as a result of too high expectations, lack of suitable genetics and limited agronomic knowledge causing unreliable business models. JatroSolutions spent more than a decade on breeding to improve seed yield and oil content. New cultivars need about 10% of the surface area to produce the same amount of Jatropha oil as compared to wildtypes. Improving agronomic management and developing accurate business models that target rather local than global markets are further benefits. Resulting local value chains create new jobs in existing and emerging sectors as well as further opportunities for local companies.

## Myth: Jatropha farming results in reduction of biodiversity and soil degradation!



### Facts

Advanced agronomic management in Jatropha farming includes organic fertilization, recycling of harvest residues, intercropping and living fences. These measures contribute to biodiversity and soil quality. Novel Jatropha farming concepts also take land use change (LUC) into consideration. LUC from tree savannas to Jatropha farming has negative effects on both, biodiversity and soil quality. On grass savanna or maringal land perennial Jatropha cultivation combined with fodder production replaces traditional slash and burn production systems. This has longterm protective effects to local fauna and flora.