

Falling On Deaf Ears

Challenges to communicating the benefits of
bioenergy for Africa

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Benefits of bioenergy for Africa

- Increased investment for agriculture
 - Increased yields
 - Improved food security
- Increased infrastructure
 - Improved market access
- Diversified markets
- Value-added products and exports
- Semi-skilled and skilled jobs
- Increased energy access
 - Cleaner cooking fuel
 - Electricity access
 - Fuel for agriculture and transport



Food vs. Fuel?

- Food price spikes—2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11
- Crop failures, low global cereals stocks, increased demand for feed, increased demand for meat
- Maize riots
 - EU RED
 - US RFS
- Biofuels to blame?
 - 75%?!

The Biofuels Blame Game



Poor Harvests

- Crop failure in major producing markets
- Climate change impacts on sensitive markets

Biofuels Policies

- Biofuels demand reduces food availability

Food Insecurity

- Food prices go up
- People go hungry



Challenges

- Information gap allows for assumptions
- Biofuels already a dirty word in the collective Western mind
- EU biofuels policymaking too susceptible to emotional debate
- Limited resources
- Biased media

**Lots of questions,
even more
assumptions,
but few answers.**

Myths & Facts



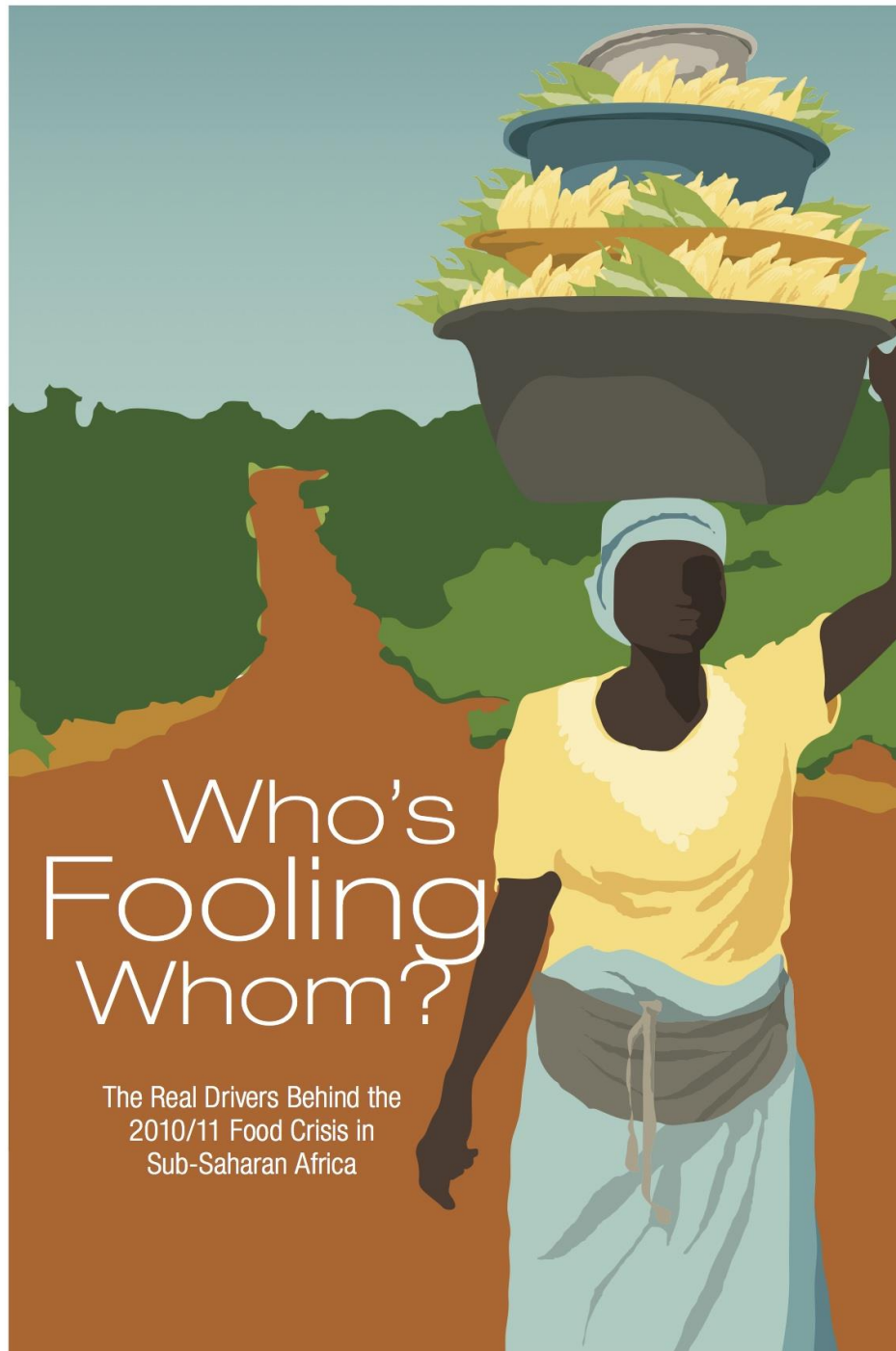
Myths and Facts about Bioenergy in Africa





10 Myths & Facts

- Biofuels don't cause food insecurity
- Plenty of land availability for increased food and fuel production
- Biofuels don't lead to landgrabbing
- Biofuels can support biodiversity through IFES
- Oil drives food price increases, not biofuel mandates
- African biofuel exports to Europe are miniscule
- Biofuels can help improve gender balance
- Large-scale biofuels can be produced sustainably
- Biofuels can improve energy access in Africa
- Biofuels can support true development



Who's Fooling Whom?

The Real Drivers Behind the
2010/11 Food Crisis in
Sub-Saharan Africa



The study

- 269 price series of six staple crops
 - cassava
 - maize
 - millet
 - rice
 - sorghum
 - and wheat
- 20 African food markets
- What's the impact on African food prices during the spikes?



Where's the price transmission?

- Consumed locally:
 - Sorghum
 - Maize
 - Cassava
 - Millet
- Imports:
 - Wheat—EU, Australia, US, Canada, Argentina
 - Rice—Thailand



Results

Table 1. Changes in African and world food prices (maize, rice, sorghum, wheat) in 2010/11

Commodity	Period	% change in world prices	% change in domestic prices (in USD)	% change in African prices as % of change in world prices
Cassava	Jul 2010 – Sep 2010	n/a	50.82%	n/a
Maize	Jun 2010 – Apr 2011	95.73%	36.60%	38.24%
Millet	Sep 2010 – Sep 2011	n/a	38.38%	n/a
Rice	Jun 2010 – Nov 2011	52.96%	22.40%	42.30%
Sorghum	Jun 2010 – Aug 2011	94.36%	7.94%	8.42%
Wheat	Jun 2010 – May 2011	78.31%	24.36%	31.11%

Source: PANGEA calculations based on FAOSTAT data

**So how do you
blame biofuels for
food insecurity in
Africa?**



Causes of food insecurity

- Underinvestment in agriculture
- Lack of market access
- Lack of storage
- Postharvest losses
- EU/US agricultural subsidies
- Rising oil prices
- Lack of energy access

Integrated food and energy systems



POVERTY, POOR HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Farmers have limited market access for their crops, which leads them to cut down trees to make charcoal for urban consumers for which demand and prices are growing strongly.

Farmers have a poor understanding of family health, which leads them to grow low-maintenance staple crops with limited nutritional value. 44% of Mozambican children under five are stunted due to poor diet and chronic illness.

Farmers lack technical skills and inputs, which leads to poor farming practices such as slash-and-burn methods that deplete soils and result in further forest destruction.

Families are increasingly buying imported food due to limited domestic supplies.

Urban families recognize charcoal as dirty, inefficient, and unhealthy, but have no real alternatives. Cooking indoors with charcoal is equivalent to two packs of cigarettes per child per day.

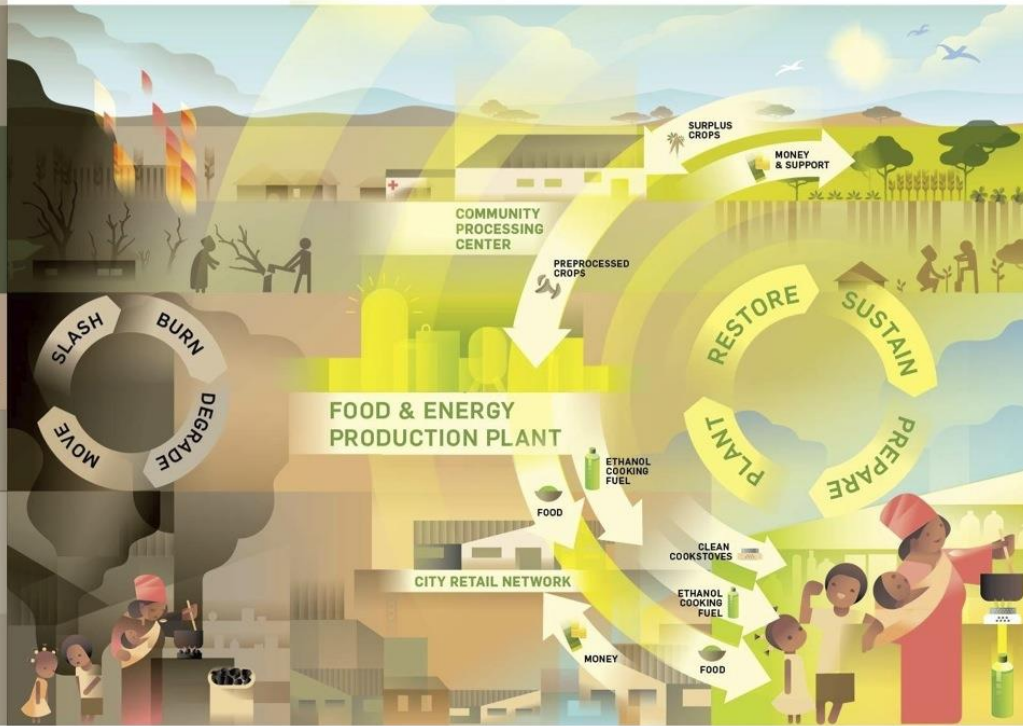
Charcoal prices have doubled in the last 3 years due to receding forests and growing urbanization. Charcoal sales in Maputo now average \$30 per month per family.

ENERGIZING AFRICAN AGRICULTURE

A BLEAK REALITY

THE CHANGE WE BRING

A BRIGHTER FUTURE



MORE FOOD, BETTER HEALTH, STRONGER LOCAL ECONOMY

By 2013, 3,000 families practice conservation agroforestry to produce their own food and sell surpluses for cash.

2.4 million indigenous trees will be planted in communities.

Greater crop diversity improves family nutrition levels, while the sale of crop surpluses delivers 500% improvement on incomes compared to charcoal production.

By 2014, 20% of Maputo households are using clean, safe, convenient, and affordable ethanol-based cooking solutions, preventing 4,000 hectares of forest destruction annually.

Reduced indoor air pollution improves family health.

Spending on cooking fuel and food drives rural development and environmental restoration.

CleanStar
Mozambique

novozymes
Rethink Tomorrow

pangea



Moving forward

PANGEA is seeking:

- Inspiration
- Lessons learned
- Improved communication methods
- Outreach opportunities
- Partnerships

How can we work together to spread the word about the benefits of bioenergy for Africa?

Thank you
for your
attention.

