

A brief introduction to Biomass Feedstock BV

Sustainable mass cultivation of high caloric biomass woodchips and charcoal

Philosophy



The business plan of Biomass Feedstock is based on combining the following themes: (1) the global need for CO₂ reduction and green renewable energy, (2) the great potential of fast growing, high yield trees, (3) the enormous potential of West-Africa and (4) the search of investors for good impact investment opportunities (sustainable cash flows and value creation).

Products



We will produce (1) high caloric, CO₂ neutral and FSC compliant biomass woodchips from fast growing, high yield Paulownia Elongata trees and (2) charcoal (carbonized woodchips) to be used in clean cook stoves.

Markets



Our primary market for biomass woodchips are the local West-African markets for renewable energy in the region and carbonized woodchips to be used in clean cook stoves. Other potential buyers are the West-European Utilities Companies as well as the paper & packaging industry (pulp) and the construction industry (timber).

West-Africa



We will focus on Ghana to (1) establish a test location and (2) build our first plantation. Final choice of the location is dependent on the local possibilities (a.o. availability of land and labor; cooperation of local governments and communities) and logistics (transportation and harbor facilities). The Ankasa Forest is likely to come first.

Local Impact



We aim to realize a meaningful positive social economic impact in the countries where we will be active, with a focus on small farmers and the local communities, providing also education & healthcare. The land that we aim to use for our forestry plantation is a degraded forest area. No agricultural land will be needed or used. Additionally, an intercropping project will be executed with a view to improve the living standard in the villages as well as to teach farming techniques (education) to the farmers and to provide the community with high quality seeds (fruits, vegetables) resulting in a better food safety and variety.

Business cycle



Our business cycle can be divided into (0) test plot (1) preparation & planting, (2) growth (maintenance), (3) harvesting and (4) transportation and selling. First felling is due 20 months after planting. Thereafter the trees will start growing again from the stump and can be felled again after 15 months (trees will then be approx. 6 meters high with a cross-cut of 20 cm). This cycle can be repeated 6 to 8 times before planting new trees. We aim to build (over time) a 10,000-acre plantation. On this scale, there will be continuous growing & harvesting activities, which will result in strong, recurring cash flows.

Planning



We will establish a 4-acre micro plot in H2-2017 (preparations in final stage)). The micro plot results in terms of growth rate and caloric values of the trees will be reported with the help of Gent University/VIB (independent academic validation). In the course of H2-2018 we aim to expand our micro plot to a 1,000-acre plantation at first and eventually to 10,000 acres. The project can then be replicated in many different parts of Africa.