

BIOMASS: An Underrated and Deprioritized Energy Potential

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It is pleasing to know that Biomass which is commonly regarded as waste materials are being explored all around the globe for the development of mankind. Unfortunately, some regions with biomass as their strongest and main energy potential are not benefiting from this energy opportunity. It is worrisome to know that these countries still suffer from insufficient electricity as well as some failure in agriculture caused by unavailability of fertilizer. This unfortunate incidence is caused by lack of information which is the primary reason for underrating and deprioritizing Biomass.

Africa: Nigeria, as a case study

It is mind blowing to know that according to a document published by the Ministry of Power, it states that Biomass is Nigeria's main energy carrier with 81.25% potential while Natural gas, Petroleum products, Crude oil, Hydro Power and other Renewable share the remaining 18.75%. As at 2018, Nigeria is yet to install at least 1kilowatt biomass power connection to the grid. Today, Nigeria suffers insufficient electricity which I suggest the primary reason is failure to tap and explore from the main energy carrier. It is quite interesting to know that over 70% Nigeria's population do not know that power can be generated from waste materials. It is worrisome to also know that many science students in Nigeria do not know that power can be generated from waste. It is depressing as an entrepreneur to even know that a country with Biomass as the main energy carrier do not even believe in Biomass but prefer to develop secondary energy potentials.

I can state confidently that if Biomass is not explored maximally in Nigeria (most populous nation in Africa), electricity would remain an unending challenge, however organic fertilizer which is the bi-product of agricultural waste to energy can help boost agricultural yields for the development of the agricultural sector.

How biomass energy can help fight/prevent cancer!

Have you ever wondered why even some vegetarians develop cancer?

We successfully carried out a research on 5 different species of vegetable in the Nigerian markets and discovered that there is cancer triggering agents in these vegetables due to the "INORGANIC FERTILIZER USED IN PLANTING THEM".

Bi-product of animal waste or agricultural waste to energy is ORGANIC FERTILIZER. Organic fertilizer from bio energy

projects can substitute the inorganic to help avoid these cancerous agents in growing supposed healthy foods. Adopting Bio energy can boost the production of organic fertilizer hereby aid to prevent Cancer. At WIRE, we also focus on how Renewable energy can also keep us living healthy.

Misplaced Priorities of Institutions Meant To Promote Biomass

I graduated from the department of Physics, Lagos State University and was the first student to carry out a research on bio-energy in 2014, to generate biogas from pig dung which I eventually chose as a career. In 2018, another student did a similar project. My point is Lagos State University was established in the year 1983 and it took 31 years for a physicist (department of Physics) to come up with a bio energy project, in a country with Biomass as a main energy carrier. This instance is a proof that even academic institutions are not paying attention and respect to the needful as well as importance of Biomass due to lack of proper information which is a reason for deprioritizing and underrating biomass for the research of other irrelevance to the society. If academic institutions do not raise bio energy specialists, then I am afraid that electricity challenge remains.

It is ridiculous to know that people think rocket science is needed for the exploration of Biomass or waste to energy projects whereas local farmers in rural villages in India are used to practicing this method for generating gas for cooking. Unfortunately, majority of Renewable energy entrepreneurs are focusing on solar because they are more in pursuit of financial gains than development, due to this solar energy is becoming more popular while biomass is unrecognized, coupled with the fact that international organizations are funding more solar energy projects. I wish that the funders too are well informed when it comes to prioritizing and disbursement of funds. Biomass projects should be funded more in regions with more Biomass potential.

Potential Biomass Project

Word Impact Renewable Energy Limited, (WIRE) signed a MOU with the largest pig farm estate in Africa, Oke-Aro pig farm estate, Nigeria to use animal dungs generated on the farm for renewable energy. The pig farm estate houses over 200,000 pigs in a cluster, such a project can generate up to 6MW power enough to feed thousands of households with electricity. Unfortunately, a project as this isn't getting the right attention from investors, private and government organizations.

Conclusion

It is worrisome to know that supposed wastes are wasting in countries that need electricity. More aggression should be put into informing people about Biomass and its benefit. Biomass projects should not be limited to research and science in the labs but developing large

scale projects and informing the public for possibility of funding and acknowledgement.

Biomass, an Underrated and under prioritized energy is not performing its wonders because Africans are yet to acknowledge its potential.

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