

Bioenergy I Posters: Fuel Alcohols



Biomass Energy Priorities for Developing Nations

Henry R. Bungay

H.P.Isermann Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Troy, NY 12180-3590

bungah@rpi.edu

On the internet at <http://www.rpi.edu/~bungah/PriorityTitle.htm>



Countries visited:



Brazil



Egypt



Guatemala



India



Peru



Republic of
the Philippine

Summary of: Biomass Energy Priorities for Developing Nations



- **Biomass energy deserves low priority when water is scarce or agriculture is stressed to meet needs for food.**
- **Logistics determine whether biomass energy makes sense. A nation with dismal prospects for biomass energy may have a few regions where it is profitable.**
- **A major thrust for alcohol fuels is a gamble. A more cautious approach is to substitute biomass for coal, oil, and natural gas as chemical feedstock. Biomass is more reactive and suited better for enzymatic conversions.**
- **Low technology means lower capital investment and less risk.**