

## **Curcas Oil Philippines Inc. started intercropping Jatropha with Peanuts**

*Amsterdam, The Netherlands, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010* - Curcas has decided to investigate and where possible, pursue the possibility to apply intercropping on new plantations with the purpose of generating faster returns. As new Jatropha trees are planted 2.5 meters apart, Curcas Oil Philippines Inc. has started planting peanuts between the rows of Jatropha trees to maximize the use of land.

It normally takes about 12 to 15 months before the first Jatropha seeds can be harvest from the new trees. During this period, Curcas Oil Philippines Inc. will earn from peanuts as a secondary crop. The peanuts will be planted and harvested for a period of about two years, while the Jatropha trees are still young and allow enough light and space for the peanuts to grow. During that period the peanuts can be harvested every four months.

As Curcas only uses idle or marginal land to grow Jatropha, the harvest yields approximately 1'000 kilos of peanuts per hectare or 3'000 kilos per hectare per year. This is a lower yield than on top soil. Intercropping will nevertheless improve the short term ROI of new plantations, and will moreover help to avoid the growth of weeds. There is a local market for peanuts and the price is around 50 PHP (0.86 EUR) per kilo, resulting in revenues of approximately 150'000 PHP (2586 EUR) per hectare per year.

Curcas has the intention to start planting peanuts over an area of 300 hectare over the course of 2011. Where possible, the Curcas Oil N.V. will apply the same intercropping principles at its subsidiaries in Thailand and Indonesia.

Peanut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) or groundnut has been a popular crop in the Philippines. It is considered one of the major field legumes grown by farmers but its production has been low and erratic. In the Philippines, peanut can be grown throughout the year provided inputs, especially the water requirement are adequately available.

### **About Curcas Oil N.V.**

Curcas Oil N.V. is a producer of Jatropha Crude Oil. With its subsidiaries Alternative Energy Manufacturing Ltd. (Thailand), Curcas Oil Philippines Inc. (Philippines) and PT Pengembangan Jarak (Indonesia), Curcas Oil N.V. cultivates Jatropha Curcas plants for the production of Jatropha Crude Oil in a sustainable and responsible manner.

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