

ABOUT THE BOOKLET:

“Agrofuels in South Africa: projects, players and poverty” is the seventh in the Biosafety, Biopiracy and Biopolitics Series of research papers published by the African Centre for Biosafety (ACB).

The booklet provides a critical overview of the various agrofuels projects in South Africa. It also discusses the policy, regulatory and fiscal context. The booklet argues that the agrofuels drive is designed to create new markets for agribusiness in South Africa’s remaining communal and traditional farming areas; a process that will exacerbate rural poverty and landlessness. It explains why ‘agrofuel’ is used instead of ‘biofuel’, as a more appropriate term to describe fuel produced from large-scale industrialised agriculture based on monocrops, including genetically modified organisms and agrochemicals.

In regard to the agrofuels projects, the booklet provides rich information and shows the Eastern Cape to be a clear hot-spot. The booklet dispels the myth that the land, being earmarked in the Eastern Cape for agrofuels - mainly in former homelands – is ‘underutilised’. It argues that multinational companies are set to reap huge profits, at the expense of rural people, the environment, and food security in South Africa.

If you would like to receive a copy, please contact Polelo at Polelo@biosafetyafrica.net for a small fee of R50 inclusive of postage. The booklet can also be freely downloaded from the ACB website www.biosafetyafrica.net.