

Alternative Plants Need Investments

Despite the fact that big world countries resorted to the use of food crops to produce bio-fuel, which many scientists believe that there are many other non-food plants that could be used for such a purpose.

These plants include Ganzova and Jojoba, grown in deserts and have a lot of characteristics.

The scientists, Al-Alam Al-Youm interviewed, recorded these plants and how they are suitable for various countries. They also explained their cost-effectiveness and how they can be used as an alternative for traditional fuel.

In this regard, Dr. Jezion Ed-Diwani, associate prof. in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Semi-Industrial Experiments and Head of Engineering Development and consultation in the National Research Institute (NRI) and Head of the Project of Bio-Diesel production from non-food plants – said that the NRI started bio-diesel production from non-food plants almost four years ago.

The project is being implemented within the framework of an Egyptian-American partnership for the production of such a bio-fuel from ricinus and Jojoba.

The project focuses on Ganzova as it is a non-food oil source that is grown in many areas in the Egyptian deserts, such as Luxor, Aswan, New Valley, Suhag and Abo-Rawwash.

It is irrigated by treated wastewater and it does not need much water, even the quality of the water doesn't matter.

Oil accounts for 25% of the seed composition and can be raised to 40% through the studies of advanced methods for improved productivity.

Dr. Diwani noted that Ganzova is a local or partial alternative to petroleum diesel as it has close characteristics to traditional diesel. However, it is environmentally friendly as its burning emissions contain no environmental contaminants.

In addition, other substances resulting from bio-diesel production have many benefits. For example, the remaining Substance can be used as a bio-fertilizer or, through a simple treatment process, as animal feed. Also, glycerin, which is a chemical substance of an economic value, can be produced by a simple process.

As for the reason why concerned countries in Europe and the Americans do not use these plants for bio-fuel production instead of food crops, Dr. Diwani said that all these countries' land are agricultural and suitable for growing food crops. So, they would not replace them with such plants. On the contrary, Egypt has vast desert areas that suit these kinds of plants.

On the other hand, European countries issued a law for the use of bio-diesel at 15% to 20% as an alternative to petroleum diesel. Also, these countries use food oils.

However, they have recently begun to cooperate with countries like Egypt in projects for the production of oils from non-food plants.

On her part, Dr. Nagwa El-Ibiary- prof. in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Semi-Industrial Experiments and who is responsible for bio-diesel production project in the NRI – noted that it was easy to grow non-food

plants in most of the world countries instead of using food stuff, which caused soaring food prices all over the world and put heavy burdens on food crops.

Some non-food plants were agriculturally developed in Europe and their oils can be used as alternatives to petroleum, and they can be grown in Egypt.

Egypt: the first victim, experts say

Experts agree that continuing oil price increases around the world implies a global catastrophe that would threaten economic stability in most developing countries, especially Egypt.

They reiterated that this crisis can be faced by expanding agricultural production in Egypt and trying to reach self-sufficiency.

This is in addition to achieving a real integration between Arab countries to meet the increasing demand on agricultural food production, mainly wheat and maize. In fact, many Egyptian investors took the latter approach and started working in Sudan, which has more than 200 million virgin feddans in need for agricultural investment.

In this regard, Dr. Ali Khalifa – head of Agro-Economy, Faculty of Agriculture, and Cairo University – said that recent studies conducted by the Agro-Economic Research Centre showed that food stuff's world prices witnessed unprecedented increase that hit 50 % during the period from January 2007 to March 2008. On the other hand, the world food reserve dropped to its lowest level in 30 years.

He stressed that the situation in Egypt is similarly worse, especially with Egypt topping the list of the world's largest ten grain and commodity-importing countries. It imports about 6.8 % of food stuff worldwide.

Dr. Khalifa explains that the first and main reason for food stuff price increase that hit 135 US\$ per barrel.

This resulted in a paralleled decrease in US Dollar price. Accordingly, some bean-exporting countries, mainly USA, turned to production of bio-fuel, which now affects man's food dramatically.

He also said that the most famous bio-fuel-producing countries, other than USA, were Canada, EU countries and some Latin America countries such as Argentina, which resulted in the drop of world grain offer. As for the high cost of Ethanol production, it is attributed to increasing oil prices.

On the other hand, the second cause of food stuff increasing prices has to do with increasing food demand globally from the emerging economies in countries like China and India.

This, in turn, can be attributed to the citizens' increasing income; as annual individual consumption rose from 8 Kg to 25 kg.

The third and last cause is the drastic drop of some grain-producing countries due to bad weather conditions, such as Australia that was a main wheat exporter to Egypt. This is in addition to speculations in commodities market due to soaring oil prices.

For Egypt to get out of this crisis Dr. Khalifa suggests a reconsideration of crop composition in Egypt and increasing the areas of wheat and maize along with limiting rice areas, which covers 2 million feddans and consumes about a third of irrigation water.

This is besides imposing strict fine on violators. In addition, sugar crops, should be expanded, especially red beet, in newly cultivated lands, which are also suitable for oil vegetables. This is the best solution and the first step of self-sufficiency.

The Future Fuel

Dr. Gamal Seyam, professor of agro-economy and advisor of Agro-Economic studies centre, Cairo University thinks that the reason behind many countries using their crops surpluses to produce bio-fuel is due to the rocketing increase of oil prices.

Nowadays, bio-fuel becomes the fuel of the future that is attracting more and more investments.

The bio-fuel is principally a gas produced from any crop containing carbohydrates or starch and is now added to 80 % if car engines are modified.

It is no wonder that the USA has been recently using its maize surpluses to produce bio-fuel. It is now producing 8 billion gallons of methanol, i.e. 80 % of world sugar cane to produce 3 billion gallons. They are followed by EU countries with bio-diesel from oil grains and soya bean.

Dr. Seyam also explained that depending on grain to produce bio-fuel will result in aggravating the food shortage crisis globally, especially in the developing countries, with Egypt topping the list.

It is evident that about 37 countries all over the world suffer from a food crises.

Thus, the consequences will be catastrophic, especially with the drop of world grain reserves and failure of the international trade system set by the World Trade Organization.

In this regard, many countries have already resorted to limiting food stuff exports to meet their domestic needs. For example, Egypt, Indonesia and Vietnam put limits on rice exports. .

Agricultural Investment

On agricultural investment, for former chairman of Agricultural crops Export Council, Sherif El- Maghraby, expects investment in agriculture to grow due to increasing agricultural production and balancing offer and demand.

Despite the effort the governments exert to encourage investors and support agricultural production, limited water resources in the Arab countries in general and in Egypt, in particular, poses a serious challenge to this kind of investment.

For example, El-Maghraby stressed that the competitive privilege Egypt has, is in citrus and vegetables, which are high yielding crops that would enable Egypt to buy a strategic reserve of grain. Thus, we can achieve the long-sought food security.

Economic Liberalization

Dr. Salah Moqled – Professor of Agro Economy, Ain Shams University, said that the USA's quest for an alternative source for fuel from crops came after it failed to control world energy sources, despite its frequent wars and heavy casualties over the last few years.

So, it turned to another policy of reducing grain areas by 30 % and replaces them with crops from which bio-fuel can be extracted. This means that an estimated one third of these crops' seeds would be directed to bio-fuel production.

In this regard, the US administration has recently announced future plans for production of more Ethanol using maize crop.

He also stressed that going on with this policy, which is seen as an economic rationalization towards cost reduction, would lead the whole world to serve food crisis and destruction of developing countries' grains over the last few years. This is besides the direct adverse impact on world trade, due to low crop offer.

In fact, developing countries that have yet to achieve self-sufficiency are the most affected by this immoral policy due to the direct adverse effect on their economic growth rates, added Dr. Moqled.

He noted that food price increase impact would not be limited to grain but exceed them to their related industries.

This is in addition to the increase of meat prices due to cattle feed rising prices, not to mention prices of oils extracted from oil grain, such as soya bean, for bio fuel production.

Finally, Dr. Moqled describes the situation in Egypt as the most effected by this crisis. He attributes it to the long years of neglecting the value of agriculture after the economic decisions taken following the signing of the economic liberalization agreement.

Ghali: the West will not stop

Minister of finance, Dr. Youssef Botrous Ghali stressed that the western countries would not cease to produce bio-fuel from crops to do without oil-producing Arab States.

Speaking in a Davos Forum, Ghali also refuted what the USA said about bio-fuel production for economic reasons or environment preservation, emphasizing that it only did with politics.

"The solution of food problems will come only by income redistribution globally." said Dr. Ghali.

He also called for a political dialogue to take place between food and energy consumers and importers, so they can reach an agreement and work towards getting out of this world crisis. A world on the verge of a catastrophe.

Hunger hit many regions in the world and affected more than 850 million people.

It is again threatening another billion with the recent food crisis that makes the headlines of Arab and world news bulletins and newspapers. Some headlines warned of the hunger that looms in the horizon and the danger of hunger in Egypt.

Others accused those responsible for the reasons of hunger, poverty and draught, i.e. the new world masters.

In addition, reports of concerned international organizations, such as FAO and the World Bank, indicate that two billion people are under the poverty line, and the daily spending of half of them doesn't exceed 1 US \$ each.

Regarding the history of the world crisis caused by the use of bio-fuel and the heavy load on crops for its production, which threatens food security in the world especially in the developing countries, the economists "Al-Alam Al-Youm interviewed reiterated that continuing dependence on crops in bio-fuel production would lead to shrinkage of agricultural areas and rarity of food.

This would aggravate the crisis and the suffering of peoples already facing food shortages. Under these conditions, there may be no effective and applicable solutions for this crisis.

In this regard, economic expert Dr. Salah Gouda thinks that the whole issue dates back to the USA invasion of Iraq. Since then, oil prices started to rise continually, which made oil-exporting Gulf States meet to discuss the idea of reducing production of oil and the price increases, thus they can get revenues to afford US war costs.

Afterwards, the world, especially the European countries, found that oil prices were in continuous increase.

Thus, they sought alternatives from crops wastes, such as sugar cane wastes used for Ethanol production. Also, scientists from South America, India and Brazil resorted to bio-fuel production from maize, wheat and barely.

This, in turn, creates a food crisis and starvation, not to mention severe shortage of grain and crops. This will be accompanied by big industrial countries' monopoly of new energy sources, which would have serious consequences.

Dr. Gouda added that among the adverse impacts of producing bio-fuel from crops was the last year's increase of US wheat prices to more than 60- 62 %.

"This increase continues and threatens world countries seriously," he noted. Therefore, it can be said that over the coming period, the USA will satisfy its food stuff needs on the account of other countries.

It will expand its bio-fuel production to reduce oil price till it reaches bio-fuel self-sufficiency. Thus the USA can control oil imports from the Gulf States and become the controller of the new energy sources.

So, the recent International Economic Forum focused on the importance for oil-rich countries to increase their oil production. This can be used as a mechanism for oil prices reduction since production increase means price decrease.

Furthermore, Dr. Alia El-Mahdi – professor of economics and Director of Economic and Financial Studies Centre, Cairo University – describes the world future in the light of continuing bio-fuel production as gloomy and fearful with the dependence on food sources for power generation.

"If some countries are now able to do so, the whole world will face a serious human disaster that we may have no effective economic solutions to. She remarked.

Dr. Mahdi stressed the importance for the world to resort to studies of alternative energy, such as solar, nuclear and wind energy, and to promote these sources to the maximum to relieve pressure on food.

"There are many regions in the world that suffer from starvation and draught with the limited use of crops in bio-fuel production. How would it be if there were collective world efforts to control food sources and turn them into an alternative energy?" She wonders.

She says that this crime against world peoples as it encroaches flagrantly on their right to secure food whatever the cost. .

She also referred to UN warning of this situation's seriousness and grave consequences and its calls on the big countries to relieve the pressure on food. "The UN is declaring the highest level of alert to face food and bio-fuel crises and find alternative energy sources" Dr. Mahdi concluded.

In the same context, Dr. Osama Abdul Khaliq, professor of economy, Ain Shams University, agrees with the notion that the general image of world economy reflects more bias to the developed countries and more deterioration for the developing countries and the Arab World, including Egypt.

The latter became fully dependant on exporting one single item for example, crude oil. This means that as long as there is a food crisis, developed countries will get richer and poor countries will get poorer.

"The situation in Egypt is a part of this world context. Our crisis is really of a conscience nature, not that of food.

We lack advanced technologies and techniques that can enable us to enter alternative energy, such as bio-fuel, as we suffer seriously from food shortage and can not achieve self-sufficiency" Dr. Abdul Khaliq added.

He noted that this is true and the real picture of Egypt's suffering, not a gloomy one. There is a centrifugal relation between imports and the consequences of this world crisis.

The more we import the more local market crises we face. This means additional burdens on our country's economy as we import 97 % of our food needs after we were able to have surpluses and self-sufficiency", he concluded.

Bio-fuel; holocaust of the poor's food

Nowadays, the whole world is suffering from a sever food crisis that caused food stuff prices to soar. So, it causes social turmoils due to poor people's objections to these price increases.

This crisis is mainly a result of the USA and some European countries' production of bio-fuel from alternative sources, i.e. wheat and maize. Besides, the number of countries that got out of a heavy agro-production circle, the relevant speculations has aggravated the crisis more.

However, the main reason for this crisis continues to be the production of bio-diesel and Ethanol from crops, such as maize, wheat, sugar cane and beet as well as vegetable oils, i.e. palm, soya and sun flower oils.

This, in turn, resulted in a rocketing increase of these crops prices, especially as the largest maize and sugar producers, i.e. USA and Brasil, are the largest Ethanol producers.

This situation for bodies disaster, which urged President Mubarak, in his speeches to Davos World Economic Forum, Sharm El-Sheik and Food Security Conference in Rome to warn that the world is facing a sever economic crisis

that started with the collapse of the US real estate market and drop of expected growth of world economy.

In fact, the world is facing an overwhelming inflation with unprecedented rise of energy, basic food stuff and raw materials' prices, which have negative impact on poor countries.

President Mubarak called for guaranteeing food security for the poor, which is a key challenge, but a responsibility to the poor and individuals in the lower-income brackets..

"This objective should not be a subject for speculations that raise food prices or for trends that use man's food as an engine fuel," Mubarak noted.

He added that the international community needed to re-evaluate the real cost of bio-fuel production, with its adverse impacts of societies, environments as well as food security.

Mubarak also called for an urgent international dialogue to put solutions that guarantee that world population food needs are satisfied, along with security food supplies for world economy.

In this regard "Al-Alam Al- Youm" opens the bio-fuel file and discusses it from all its aspects. It also puts all its related issues to discussion and reviews how to face and overcome them.

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FAO: Poor Countries' food prices soar

In this economic report issued this month, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) expect that the world would witness a remarkable increase

in crops production this year. However, it would be inadequate to protect poor countries from food price increase that multiplied fourfold since a decade.

FAO also predicted that world wheat production will rise by 8.7 % over last year's, a reason why wheat prices dropped by some 50 % since last February. Nevertheless, rice, which is a main crop for more than a half of world population, will run short of supply.

Thus, poor countries depending on imported crops will suffer from a food imports invoice increasing by some 40 %, following a similar rise in 2007.

The organization stressed that soaring food prices is an alarming development for the poor countries as their imported food baskets multiply four fold their amount in 2000. This is despite the fact that the report expected a world grain production increase of 3.8 %.

On the other hand, the report expected that USA wheat production will rise by 16 % this year, to be the highest since 1998, while EU production will not allow prices to go down remarkably over the coming few months.

Renewable Energy is the solution

Many businessmen and experts reiterated that depending on renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind energy, are the best solution for oil exhaustion.

In this regard, Eng. Nader Riad, Chairman of the Egyptian-German Business Council and Head of Research, Development and Technology Transfer Committee of the Egyptian Industries Federation, said “the world had nothing but to discover alternative sources for energy after the unprecedented oil prices increase due to growing oil consumption by emerging economies, especially China, India and Malaysia.”

He explained that soaring oil prices forced developed countries to think of energy alternatives, most important of which was bio-fuel, "This alternative is produced from crops, which poses a challenge to the poor and developing countries," **Dr. Riad** noted.

He also remarked that there were scientific alternatives to generate energy from renewable sources. Germany set the best example in this field.

As for Egypt, **Dr. Riad** stressed that the statement of the Ministry of Electricity indicated that Egypt's huge solar energy, compared to most European countries', was poorly used.

These statements show that electricity generated from petroleum, natural gas and coal accounts for 84.1 % of total production, while 15.5 % is hydro-generated.

Besides, clean and renewable energy sources, mainly winds, account only fore 0.3 – 0.4 %, a rate with no significant growth in 2005. The date concerning Electricity Generating Plan to 2022 showed that wind-generated electricity would not exceed 622 mega watts, which means a drop by 1.2 %.

"On the other hand, Al-Koraymat plant, thermo-solar power station, is under construction with a capacity of only 150 mega watt.

It will operate in 2008 - 2009. If we add planned energy of 600 mega watt from the thermo-solar station in Borg El-Arab, the expected total production will not exceed 1.64 % of the total generated electricity." Noted Dr. Riad.

This means that Egypt's future power plan till 2022 depend slightly on clean and renewable energy sources. The plan does not even refer to generating electricity from solar energy.

Dr. Riad also referred to the fact that relevant studies on the future of energy in Egypt recommended that renewable energy and hydro sources had to be used.

With regard to the electricity generated from water falls, Egypt generated about 14.659 billion kilo watt/hr. in 1999 – 2000, i.e. 20 % of total electricity generated.

In this regard, most of the hydro sources of the High Dam, Aswan Reservoir and Naga' Hammadi barrage were used and some small water falls along the Nile River are still unused.

It is important to improve performance by installing new turbines to increase generated electricity at least by 50 %. This increase can be used for the production of photo cell sheets.

As for the nuclear power, Dr. Riad said it had no carbon emissions, thus wouldn't have adverse impact on global warming.

In this regard, electricity sector data indicate the need for building generating stations with a capacity of 1200 mega watt/year to meet the annual demand increase of 7 %. Accordingly, nuclear fuel, run electricity-generating stations in the location of the nuclear plant in Al-Dabaa on the Mediterranean Sea coast.

In addition, Abdullah Helmi, board member of Chemical Industries Chamber, says that a German company specialized in alternative energy confirmed that wind in 10th of Ramadan City is suitable for establishing alternative energy units. This opinion was also seconded by a Danish company's.

"If we succeed in the 10th of Ramadan, we will be adding an important element to industry because energy became one of the most alternative factors of investment.

Besides, Egypt has great potentials to produce alternative energy whether from wind or solar energy. This will put Egypt among the leading countries in this field."

Dr. Mona El-Baradie, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, thinks that after the consecutive increases of oil prices globally, we have to seek all kinds of alternative energy.

She noticed that expansion of alternative energy production was useless. However, with world energy crisis and soaring oil prices it became imperative to use alternative sources, most important of which are wind and solar energy.

"Egypt has great surpluses of this kind of energy as we have huge wind and solar energy, compared to other countries" concluded Dr. Baradie.

Will Oil Prices continue to soar?

Will oil prices go down after their rocketing increase recently? In fact, oil prices rise was the main reason for the use of bio-fuel as an alternative to oil. Accordingly, if these prices go down, this may relieve pressure on crops used now for bio-fuel production.

To answer the above questions, experts expressed their view concerning this situation. Dr. Mohamed Reda Moharram, prof. of Natural Resources Economies and Head of Department, Faculty of Engineering, Al-Azhar University – stresses that there would be a decrease in oil prices, given that the prevailing prices do not reflect world offer and demand.

This means that there are other factors beyond the market affect pricing. These factors, said Dr. Moharram, include the new trend of the USA and big

countries to raise their strategic oil reserves and the tourist boycott, due to US policy in the Middle East, i.e. war on Iraq and Iran crisis, not to mention dispute with Venezuela and other Latin American countries.

In addition, political turmoils, usually armed, in oil-producing countries such as Nigeria contribute to this price increase. Also, speculations played a role in this increase, taking advantage of the panic in the markets.

Dr. Moharram stressed that oil prices, as higher as they may reach, would go back to US \$ 70 – 80 barrel in few months.

As for the opinions that oil price increases will continue, Dr. Moharram emphasized that such opinions did not consider price fluctuations and development and did not differentiate between short-term fluctuations and normal, gradual increase depending on long-term demand and offer rules.

Speaking of using agricultural products for bio-fuel production and how it relates to oil prices increase, Dr. Moharram reiterated that such a trend was there before the sudden increase of oil prices since the late 2007.

In the same vein, Magdi Sobhi, an economic expert and a researcher of gas affairs, noted that it was certain that oil prices would drop with the decreasing demand or increasing offer as well as the improvement of the economic situation in the USA. " Consequently, speculators would be reluctant to buy oil contracts, which would result in a drop of oil prices," he added.

As for the time span for such a drop, Sobhi thinks it is difficult to set such a time limit with the continuing US economic crisis and fluctuation of US dollar exchange rate.

On the impact of such a drop, if any, on the use of crops in bio-fuel production, Sobhi said that USA was insisting on resorting to bio-fuel to reduce oil imports.

"Also, bio-fuel production needs facilities for Ethanol production and it is hard to imagine that these facilities will be closed if oil price drop, given that advanced countries subsidize Ethanol production," noted Sobhi. He also added that some countries, i.e. USA and Brazil, tend to use crops for bio-fuel production.

Contrary to these views, Dr. Ibrahim Essawi, former under secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum for Gas affairs, thinks that oil prices would continue rising without capping, given the fact that world oil production was reaching its maximum. "No more amounts can be produced unless new wells are prospected," he remarked.

Dr. Essawi sees this increase as normal in the light of increasing demand on oil products and the unprecedented growth in some Asian countries, such as China and India as well as south Asian countries.

"This rise in oil prices is promoted by the trends adopted by rich countries as they are benefiting from such increases," he stressed.

He added that OPIC's role was expected to cease given that it was concerned with setting production quotes, which no longer existed.

On the actions needed to face these rises, Dr. Essawi stressed the importance of rationalizing consumption and seeking alternative sources such as solar, wind, and hydro-energy. "Using crops as an alternative is refused and can not be depended on", he remarked.

He also said that the USA appropriated some US \$ 17 billion to support the farmers who supply their crops for bio-fuel production. "This matter must be confronted as it put the future of the whole world in jeopardy", Dr. Essawi concluded.

For his part, Dr. Mahmoud El-Batanoni, Director of Petroleum Research Institute, believes that it was difficult to predict any increases or decreases in oil prices. "Meanwhile, there are strong expectations that the next year will witness continuous increase in oil prices to reach US \$ 200 per barrel.

This is due to increasing demand on oil products, not to mention the almost-stopped Iraqi production", he added.

Accordingly, Dr. Batanoni affirmed that the best solution for all countries to face this situation is the use of other energy sources, i.e. nuclear, solar energy etc.

On concerned countries' ability to increase oil production, Dr. Batanoni noted that increasing production by oil-producing and influential countries required new explorations that, in turn, needed specific facilities and equipments as well as time.

Ft: 16 million barrel more needed by 2030

A recent report by the financial Time's on scientists fears of oil depletion revealed that the continuing price increase at world level, which hit 130 US\$/barrel is a solid evidence on OPIC expectations that oil will hit 200 US\$/barrel in the coming couple of years.

The report warned of the negative consequences of full dependence on oil in production of almost everything, from electricity to lipsticks.

This comes in the light of a remarkable drop in Russian oil production last April, which is the first drop of its kind ten years ago. This world's second oil producer to meet market's future needs after oil-led growth amounted to 12 % five years ago.

The report also refers to news about a decrease in oil production of Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer and exporter, especially with the Saudi energy ministry denying any expansion plans for 2009 exceeding 12.5 million barrel/day.

It also shows that the dimensions of the expected crisis of "oil depletion" are based on the fact that the world depended on large and secondary oil fields over the last few years.

Since the 70s of the last century, one out of five barrels produced and consumed daily comes from an oil well operating for more than 40 years.

Recent statistics show that over the last 30 years there was no new oil field capable of producing more than 1 billion barrel/day.

The catastrophic situation aggravates with the recent expectations of the world Energy Agency, that the world countries need additional 16 billion barrel/day by 2030 for fuel.

This, in turn, forced fuel highly-consumptive advanced countries, such as USA and china- to seek new technological means to get energy, e.g. natural gas and bio-fuel, and set serious policies for world consumption rationalization. This aims to replenish the world's oil reserves.

In the same context, some analysts and energy scientists expressed their optimism concerning continual increase of oil prices world wide, considering it a motive for finding alternative means for energy production.

In fact, this increase came in parallel with a decrease in oil demand in many countries, especially the USA. They expected that oil demand growth will hit zero level in the few coming years.

In addition recent statistics of Energy Information Department revealed predictions concerning oil demand decrease in the USA over the coming 22 years. This means decreasing dependence on the inputs of the largest oil-consuming country.

Such a decrease is expected to be between 50 % and 60 % by the year 2015, followed by a slight increase in consumption of 54% by 2030.

Statistics attribute the expected decrease in oil consumption in the USA to US policy of expanding the use of bio-fuel and modifying vehicle motors.

Also, there are confirmed indicators of an expected increase in oil production from the Gulf of Mexico in USA, with an expected productivity of some 1 million barrel/day by 2012.

Serrag Eddin: The Rich Cars Run by the Poor Food

Chairman of Bibliothica Alexandria, Dr. Ismail Serrag Eddin, warned of the inhuman trend of running the cars of the West's rich with the food of the poor. "In the USA, 20% of maize crop is used for bio-fuel production.

He stressed that most of world countries had already got ready to avoid future energy crisis.

In Kazakhstan, for instance, energy ministred announced that 70 % of the countries electricity depends on coal, despite the fact that his country has 3 % of world's oil and gas reserves. However, it got prepared to deal with alternative sources of energy.

"Bush's insistence on using crops for bio-fuel production made many stand against this trend, including former environment and defense minister, whose country believes that rice hay can be used instead of crops", concluded Dr. Serrage Eddin.