

Energy Crops

Vision Statement: Addressing global climate change and the issue of national energy security by developing energy crops suitable for FL, keeping Florida's rich agricultural heritage alive, ensuring economic and environmental sustainability and stimulating rural economy

Title: Establish sustainable regional value chain through stakeholder involvement: Development and management of new bioenergy feedstock for FL

Benefit to state:

- Produce domestic biofuels
- Develop feedstock that is amenable to low input with existing production infrastructure-oilseed crops such as Carinata, Pongamia and other energy crops like sugar beet, sugarcane and sweet sorghum
- Provide viable alternatives to citrus growers of Central and South FL
- Profitable cover crop alternatives for winter fallowed land in North FL-avoids nutrient loss by leaching
- Develop value added products using cutting edge technology to increase viability of biofuel enterprises
- Stimulate rural economy-create jobs