

International Forum on Globalization * Institute for Policy Studies

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Complete report available to journalists at: www.ips-dc.org/reports/070914-falsepromiseofbiofuels.pdf

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New Scientific Report to be Released at Washington, DC Teach-In Challenges Industrial Biofuels as Greenhouse Gas Solution

September 14 Tele-Press Conference to Highlight Biofuel Report Findings; Featuring Report Author, Scientists and Teach-In Organizers

Washington, DC & San Francisco, CA: Biofuels have been widely publicized by policymakers and corporations as the number one solution to the triple crises of climate change, peak oil, and global resource depletion. But a new study *The False Promise of Biofuels*, to be published on September 14 by the International Forum on Globalization of San Francisco, CA, and the Institute for Policy Studies of Washington, DC, provides scientific evidence challenging biofuels as a solution. The study warns that the current rush to biofuels will create a harmful trade-off between fueling cars and feeding the world's poor, all at the expense of the environment.

At 1pm EST on Sept. 14, join the International Forum on Globalization and the Institute for Policy Studies for a tele-press conference with the author of this new report along with two leading scientists who are outspoken critics of industrial biofuels. They are:

- **Dr. Jack Santa Barbara**, former Canadian businessman and director of the Sustainable Scale Project. Author of *The False Promise of Biofuels*.
- **Dr. David Pimentel**, professor of agricultural sciences at Cornell University and author of 23 books.
- **Dr. Tadeus Patzek**, professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, and a former petroleum engineer for Shell Development in Houston.

The organizers of the Teach-In, entitled "[Confronting the Global Triple Crisis](#)," will also join the tele-conference. The Triple Crisis refers to the intertwined problems of climate change, peak oil, and global resource depletion. **To call-in to the tele-conference, dial (605) 990-0400 and enter passcode 280075#.**

Key findings of The False Promise of Biofuels:

- Ethanol is not a viable substitute for gasoline, due to its limited net energy creation and to constraints on increasing corn production.
- Competition between food and agrofuels can have dire consequences for the billions of poor who are sensitive to even a slight increase in the price of food.
- Corn ethanol's greenhouse gas emissions, as well as emissions from other agrofuels, may lead to higher emissions than petroleum-based gasoline.

The biofuels report is being released on the opening day of the [“Confronting the Global Triple Crisis Teach-In”](#) that will bring together 60 experts from 16 countries and indigenous nations for three days at the Lisner Auditorium of George Washington University in Washington, DC (complete schedule [here](#)). The Teach-In precedes two high-level meetings on climate change – one convened by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and one called by President Bush for later in September at the White House. Experts at the Teach-In will challenge current proposals around biofuels, so-called “clean coal,” “clean” nuclear power, carbon “cap and trade” scenarios, and green consumption. Speakers will explore fundamental solutions to all three interconnected crises and show that a solution to one is the solution to all.

Featured Teach-In speakers include: Bill McKibben, Vandana Shiva, Frances Moore Lappé, Martin Khor, Michael Klare, Maude Barlowe, and Ross Gelbspan. Complete details and registration are available at www.ifg.org. For more information or to set up interviews with the biofuel report’s author and teach-in speakers, contact Debayani Kar (202) 246-8143, debi@ips-dc.org, Claire Greensfelder (510) 917-5468, cgreensfelder@ifg.org, or Joia Jefferson Nuri (240) 603-7905, joia@ips-dc.org.

San Francisco-based [International Forum on Globalization](#) is an alliance of sixty leading activists, scholars, economists, researchers and writers formed to stimulate new thinking, joint activity, and public education in response to economic globalization. Washington, DC-based [Institute for Policy Studies](#) is a multi-issue think tank transforming ideas into action for peace, justice, and the environment.

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