



# Honey tree

## *Madhuca longifolia*

### About me:

I am a fast growing tree. My bark is slender and reddish-brown in colour. My flowers are high in natural sugars and used in tribal dishes as a sweetener. I grow best in sandy well drained soils. I prefer the open pastures and cultivated fields of Central India, due to the high light levels. I can withstand a light frost and I am drought tolerant.

### Where do I come from?

Central and Northern India

### How is the bio-fuel produced?

The oil from the seeds is prepared using the tranesterification process (Tranesterification is the reaction of a fat or oil with an alcohol to form esters and glycerol). Alcohol, usually propanol, ethanol or butanol is required to create the bio-diesel end product. Tranesterification changes the viscosity (density) of the oil which can either be used in its crude form or blended into different fuels at different temperatures to improve its stability at higher temperatures.

### How is my energy used?

Direct combustion in the form of charcoal and briquettes can be used for cooking and heating. It can also be used to generate electricity. The bio-diesel can be used as fuel in adapted cars or as a blend in regular cars.



Image taken by Shubhada Nikharge (2011) India



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