

## Clenergen to grow wood in Guyana

UK-based Clenergen has leased 2,000 hectares of land in Guyana and taken an option on a further 59,000 hectares to grow paulownia trees as a source of woodchips for electricity generation.

The company said that it would export the woodchips from the South American country to the US and Europe, where demand for biomass for co-firing with coal has been growing.

Clenergen said that the project, in collaboration with plant company Georgia Caribbean International (GCI), will begin next year.

Chief executive Mark Quinn said: "On a conservative estimate of 40t of biomass per acre [100t/hectare], the company projects an annual supply of 6m tonnes by 2016. With the overwhelming demand for coal-fired power plants to blend biomass to reduce carbon emissions, Clenergen intends to be a global supplier of high calorific wood chips for gasification and clean energy generation, particularly in Europe and the US."

He said that GCI has experience with paulownia since 1991.

The land will be used to cultivate fast growing micro-propagated elite strains of paulownia for producing wood chips (biomass) which will be exported to generate clean electricity in the US and Europe.