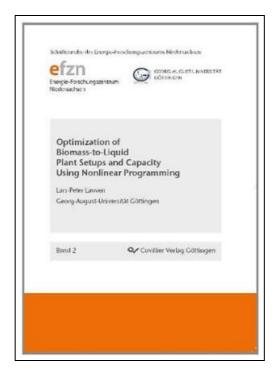
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OPTIMIZATION OF BIOMASS-TO-LIQUID PLANT SETUPS AND CAPACITY USING NONLINEAR PROGRAMMING



Cuvillier Verlag Okt 2011, 2011. Buch. Condition: Neu. Neuware - Potentially rising oil prices caused by an increasing relative scarcity of mineral oil have farreaching consequences for the transportation sector, the chemical industry and mineral oilcompanies in particular. As national laws in Germany require biofuels to be mixed intoconventional fuel to an increasing extend (BioKraftQuG 2009), mineral oil companies need toidentify economically competitive as well as technically feasible biofuel production processesto meet these requirements. A first generation of biofuels was introduced on a large scale buthas been criticized for competing with the agricultural production of food and for yielding relatively modest quantities of fuel per hectare of agricultural land. For this reason, 2ndgeneration biofuel production pathways such as Biomass-to-Liquid (BtL), which convertlignocellulosic material into liquid hydrocarbons using Fischer-Tropsch synthesis, have beendeveloped. While 2nd generation biofuels are superior to their 1st generation counterpartsfrom a yield-per-hectare-perspective and cause less competition for agricultural soils, asignificant disadvantage is the considerable investment required for the construction of Biomass-to-Liquid plants. The corresponding investment-related costs affect the competitiveness of 2nd generation biofuels negatively, leaving it in doubt whether BtL fuelscould become an economically viable option. A frequently discussed way to improve specificinvestment-related costs is to increase plant sizes to improve economies of scale. While thisimprovement has been realized in several conventional kinds of plants like mineral oilrefineries, power plants and Coal-to-Liquid plants, the application on BtL plants iscomplicated by the fact that larger plants are associated with higher specific biomasstransportation costs. This is because a higher biomass input requires biomass to betransported over larger distances. The unresolved antagonism between economies of scaleand specific biomass transportation costs has so far hindered the realization of BtL plants. The aim of this thesis is to develop a methodology to determine optimal BtL plant sizes bytaking nonlinear factors into account. The methodology is required to determine...



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