



TABLE: NOPAL ALTERNATIVE SUMMARY

	Energy (Biogas electricity)	Nopalitos in brine or vinegar
Equipment and machinery	Available mostly in local market. Some equipment must be imported	Available in the local market mostly. Autoclaves must be imported.
Investment	Half	Middle-low
Technology	Media, known technology	Low, simple systems to operate
Employment generation	Half	High, labor is required for harvesting and manual processing
Labor qualification	Low, basically in crops and average in plant process.	Media, you can train staff
Implementation	24 months for full production	12 - 18 months for the first cut
US profitability / hectare	20.000	25,000
Development capacity	Very High	Very high
Production	All year	All year
Barriers	Legislation non-existent for this type of products	Marketing not developed

	Nopal for animal feed	Nopal poder /flour
Equipment and machinery	Available in local market	Available in the local market
Investment	Low, establishment of pens and drinking fountains (water intake)	Media, drying equipment
Technology	Low	Known and widely used
Employment generation	Medium low, a single operator can handle many animals.	High, labor is required for harvesting and manual processing
Labor qualification	Low, personal training	Media, you can train staff
Implementation	12 months first cut	18 months
US profitability / hectare	-----	50,000
Development capacity	High, limited to land availability and management	Very high for animal feed
Production	All year	All year
Barriers	Requires intensive breeding	Marketing not developed

	Vermiculture Production Humus	Vermiculture Protein concentrates
Equipment and machinery	Available in local market	Available in the local market
Investment	Baja, establishment of vermiculture beds	Media, drying equipment
Technology	Low	Known and widely used
Employment generation	Medium low, a single operator can handle many beds.	Medium, labor is required for harvesting and manual processing
Labor qualification	Low, personal training	Media, you can train staff
Implementation	24 months for full production	18 months
US profitability / hectare	\$ 45,000 / hectare	\$ 35,000 / hectare
Development capacity	High, limited to land availability and management	Very high for animal feed
Production	All year	All year
Barriers	Requires intensive worm breeding	Marketing not developed, use in industrial animal feed, goats, cows, pigs.