

# PROBIO

## News

**INTEGRATED PROMOTION OF THE  
BIODIESEL CHAIN**

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### **BIOFUELS: A STRATEGIC SECTOR FOR OUR ECONOMY**

Whether we like it or not, the reality - which is half realism and half a magnificent perception of the near future, is setting in day after day. The truth is that, as far as the future prognostics on energy policy - an area that is so decisive to economic development in general, not only for the country and the various communities that make it up, but also the entire European Union - the most advantageous forecasts lean towards maintaining and boosting reformist initiatives such as the one represented by the European PROBIO Project. A projection line which, precisely because it makes possible the valuation and intelligent use of our native resources and contributes for this reason to the necessary increase in the competitiveness of local business, establishes the foundation for the foreseeable evolution of what is called second generation biofuels and helps clear up much of the uncertainty surrounding sustainable energy development.

After passing the halfway point of the Project, we, the participating partners, have enough reasons to face the coming challenges with the necessary optimism and confidence that we are on the right path and the project objectives will be gradually and successively attained. Actions such as the organization of the Travelling Exhibit "We Want To Help You Find Out About Biodiesel" which is currently circulating around the major cities in our respective territories, the Energy Crop Classes geared towards informing and training our farmers as well as the measures aimed at Consumer Loyalty will, without a doubt, effectively contribute to this.

A tangible sign of the greater knowledge of bio fuels, the first fruits of the project in question, and proof of the effectiveness of the measures contemplated in it on which the respective Panels of Experts formed for this purpose have collaborated, is obviously the well-known increase in the consumption of biodiesel that we saw last year. Besides being noteworthy, this data seems to predict the best forecast for the future.

Finally, I would like to use this occasion to thank the representatives of the European organizations for their active participation in the IV Transnational Meeting, which was organized by the Provincial Energy Agency of Ávila and held in our city on the 12th and 13th of June. I hope they had a pleasant stay and enjoyed all that we have to offer - our natural and cultural heritage and the warmth of our people.

Mr. Agustín González González

President of the Provincial  
Government of Ávila



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**INFORMATION OF INTEREST**

**SECOND GENERATION BIOFUELS, THE CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE**

Many research and technology projects throughout the world are working on the development of a **second generation of biofuels** which will counteract the present disadvantages with regards to the viability of the current biofuels and help meet the European and national objectives with regards to biofuel consumption.

The fundamental difference between the new second generation (2G) fuels and the current ones is that they will be made from better technological processes and raw materials that are not used for food and are grown on non-agricultural or marginal land. This way, the controversy generated by the current fuels because they are replacing food will be settled. The main raw materials for this new generation are cellulose biomass (mainly from fast-growing herbaceous and tree species) which has significant advantages over the first generation raw materials, residual biomass from agricultural processes (straw) and industrial or urban waste and some types of microalgae that absorb large quantities of CO<sub>2</sub>.

It seems that the products to come out of this second generation will be essentially reserved for road transport, thus replacing gasoline and diesel oil and, in the medium-term; they may also replace the kerosene used in aviation. Nevertheless, the 2G biofuels are still in the laboratory or pilot project phase. The estimates indicate that European consumers will have to wait some five years to use them significantly; however, some countries may be just on the verge of beginning to use them.



**ACTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE THIRD SEMESTER OF THE PROJECT**

**THE PARTICIPATING PROVINCES AND REGIONS ALREADY HAVE THEIR STUDY ON ENERGY CROPS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BIODIESEL**

The five regions and provinces participating in the PROBIO Project (Burgos, Ávila, Huelva, Pomurje and Abruzzo) already have their own study on using energy crops to obtain vegetable oils for the production of biodiesel. The content of these studies covers the current situation and the potential of each one of the participating provinces and regions with regards to the main species used for the production of biodiesel: more productive varieties, better farming practices, the production potential of each one of the participating areas, an economic and transformation cost analysis, strategies for putting new energy into growing these crops and obtaining maximum profitability, etc.

The purpose of these studies, which can be viewed at the Project website ([www.probio-project.com](http://www.probio-project.com)) was to make farmers and ag professionals aware of the main characteristics and potential of energy crops in each one of the provinces, thus promoting these crops as a development alternative in rural areas and as a raw material for the production of biodiesel.



### ACTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE THIRD SEMESTER OF THE PROJECT

#### FARMER TRAINING, FUNDAMENTAL TO PROMOTING ENERGY CROPS

Once the current situation of energy crops in the participating provinces and regions was revealed, the local Project partners developed a series of classes for farmers and ag professionals in said areas for the purpose of promoting the implantation of these new crops in rural areas. With these classes, which were held in May and June, sector professionals learned about the basic concepts of obtaining quality competitive productions (more productive species and varieties, profitable farming practices, economic analyses, the farming potential of each area, etc.).



#### INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR ON BIODIESEL HELD IN BURGOS



On 19 June, the Provincial Energy Agency of Burgos and CEEI Burgos organized the Technical Seminar entitled "Biodiesel: Local Development and Sustainability" in Burgos. Representatives of the major public administrations and organisms and sector businesses participated in this event which was geared towards farmers and other local agents involved in the biodiesel chain (producers, distributors, local administrations, service stations, consumers, etc.). The event closed with more than seventy people having registered.

#### PROBIO TRAVELLING EXHIBITS BEGIN CIRCULATING AROUND VARIOUS PROVINCES

The various local PROBIO Project partners have begun circulating the travelling exhibits on biodiesel which were planned as part of the general awareness activities geared towards the general population. The Presidents of the Provincial Government of Burgos and Avila (Spain) inaugurated the travelling exhibits last March in said provinces in the towns of Briviesca and Avila. For their part, the Provincial Government of Huelva (Spain), the Regional Government of Abruzzo (Italy) and the Sinergija Development Agency (Slovenia) are finalizing the preparations for their respective exhibits so that they can be put on display for the public this summer. The main objective for these exhibitions, which include informational panels, audiovisual resources and real samples, is to provide the citizens of the provinces and regions which are participating in the Project with necessary information on the production, distribution and consumption of biodiesel, thus promoting an increase in end consumption among the population.





**ACTUALIDAD*****BURGOS: The construction of a new service station offering biodiesel is planned***

The company Rallasa is going to build the first service station in Espinosa de los Monteros (Burgos), and expects this facility to be opened in 2009. Those responsible would like the new facilities to be energetically sustainable and therefore the service station canopies and buildings will include solar thermal and photovoltaic panels. Moreover, the station will offer users biodiesel. This way, the province of Burgos will expand its "bio petrol station" network, facilitating the consumption of this bio fuel for its citizens.

***HUELVA: The Provincial Government approves a motion to promote the use of bio diesel***

On 8 May, the political groups that are part of the Provincial Government of Huelva approved a motion by absolute majority to promote the use of biodiesel throughout the province (use of biodiesel in the provincial vehicle fleet, promotion of its use among the town halls in the province and their municipal fleets, promotion of its use among companies that provide services to the Government, etc.). With this initiative, the Government of Huelva is leading the implementation of innovative legal measures which boost the use of biodiesel.

***ÁVILA: Increase in the consumption of bio diesel in the province of Ávila***

Biodiesel sales saw a notable increase in the province of Avila in 2007. Specifically, consumption increased 68% over the year before, which means that the percentage of biodiesel consumption when compared to all fuels consumed rose some 0.55%. The total number of bio petrol stations that sell biodiesel in the province now stands at eight.

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