

## Short Description

### **NON-FOOD APPLICATIONS OF PALM-BASED PRODUCTS - MARKET OPPORTUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**

Since the energy crisis of the 1970s, the price of crude oil has been escalating and it is forecast to go above USD 100 per barrel in the near future. The fear of an interrupted supply from political uncertainty coupled with the rapid depletion of reserves has sparked widespread interest in alternative energy. Furthermore, the damage caused to the environment from excessive use of fossil fuels has added to the clamor for more sustainable and environmentally friendly alternatives.

Vegetable oils such as rapeseed, palm, soya bean and coconut oils are already used for manufacturing of several products, including lubricants, surfactants, surface coatings, polymers, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. Many have realized the potential of agricultural crops as drivers of the world's economy in the next few decades. The increasing use of vegetable oils in the manufacture of industrial goods will significantly lessen global dependence on petroleum products. Vegetable oils have other advantages over petroleum - they are renewable, easily biodegraded, and their processing does not emit a large amount of greenhouse gases (GHG), whereas petroleum products contribute to increase in net GHG emissions, are poorly biodegradable and their supply is depleting.

Changes in national and international policies towards environmentalism and the increasing liberalization of global trade are making agricultural crops as an important alternative of non-food feed stocks compared to before.

This short description describes the article by Razmah Ghazali; Mohtar Yusof and Salmiah Ahmad. (2006).

**Non-food applications of palm-based products-market opportunities and environmental benefits. *Palm Oil Development* 44 (2): 8-14.**

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