

Statement on biobased or renewable feedstock



The demand for biobased products is higher than ever, thanks to consumers' continued interest in sustainable products. Although the area of land used for growing crops for biochemicals and biobased plastics today is minimal, and projected to remain so in the years to come, there remains a concern in society about the use of food crops for other applications than food and feed. Moreover in the next decades, world population will grow and global demand for biomass for food and industrial applications is expected to increase.

Currently, Corbion predominantly uses the highest yielding feedstocks regionally available: raw sugar from cane is used by our factories in Thailand and Brazil, dextrose from corn is used by our lactic acid production plant in USA and raw sugar from sugar beet is used by our factories in Spain and the Netherlands. However, we are always looking for new sources of feedstocks that can improve our sustainability impact from environmental and societal point of view. Which is why our R&D teams continue to work on new production processes that support the production of biochemicals and biobased plastics made from alternative feedstocks. Options for alternative feedstocks include non-food crops, agricultural by-products and waste streams. Specific examples include miscanthus, wheat straw, bagasse, corn stover and wood chips. These feedstocks are also often referred to as 'cellulosic feedstocks' or 'second generation feedstocks'. We welcome all developments regarding these new feedstocks, and Corbion continuously evaluates them for future use. However at the moment the scale is still small and technology readiness is low.