

## M08. Liquid Biofuels – Part 1



Source: nuffieldbioethics.org

- ✦ Introduction
- ✦ Vegetable oils
- ✦ Biodiesel
- ✦ Bioethanol
- ✦ Thermochemical produced biofuels
- ✦ Biofuels Policy
- ✦ Economy and ecology

- ✦ Definition and history
- ✦ Classification
- ✦ Development



# Definition and history of liquid biofuels

... are **recent** fuels (not fossilized) of organic origin that are **liquid** at a processing and /or during energetic use.

They are made of several energy **plants** and/or their parts, of wood and other **products, by-products and residues** of organic origin.

In 1860, the German engineer **N. A. Otto** used **bioethanol** for the first time in an engine (**Otto engine**).

In 1912, **Rudolf Diesel** developed the **Diesel engine**. His first attempts were with gasoline, but later he used petroleum and also **vegetable oil**.



Source: <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki>

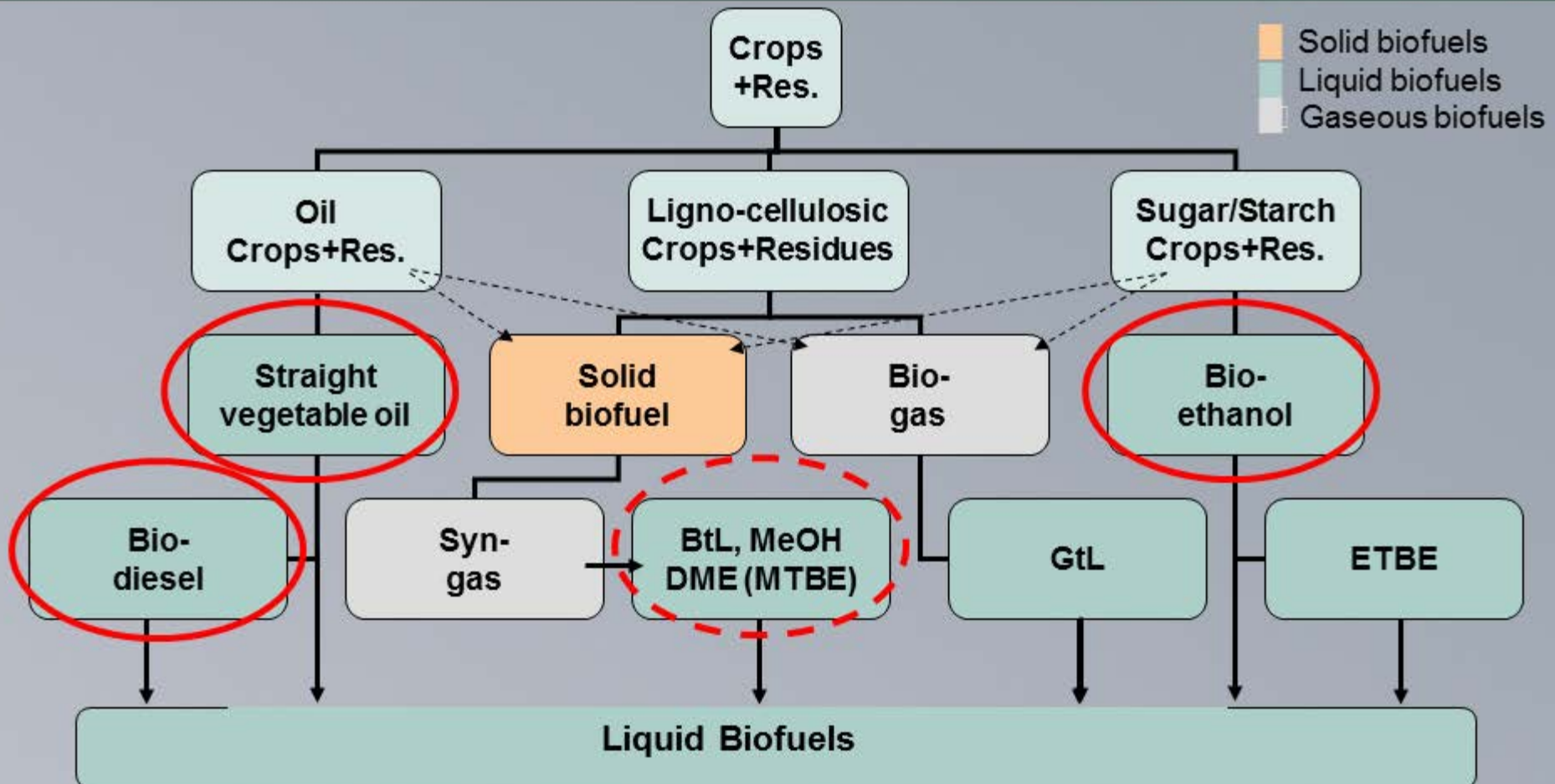
## Technical terms:

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| SVO         | Straight Vegetable Oil                      |
| PPO         | Pure Plant Oil                              |
| <b>FAME</b> | Fatty Acid Methyl Ester = Biodiesel         |
| FAMAE       | Fatty Acid Mono Alkyl Ester = Biodiesel     |
| FAEE        | Fatty Acid Ethyl Ester = Biodiesel          |
| VOME        | Vegetable Oil Methyl Ester = Biodiesel      |
| <b>RME</b>  | Rape (Seed) Methyl Ester = <b>Biodiesel</b> |
| PME         | Pflanzenölmethylester = Biodiesel           |
| AME         | Altfettmethylester = Biodiesel              |

## Technical terms:

|                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>EtOH</b>      | <b>Ethanol</b>                 |
| MeOH             | Methanol                       |
| ETBE             | Ethyl Tertiary Butyl Ether     |
| MTBE             | Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether    |
| DME              | Dimethyl Ether                 |
| <b>BTL = BtL</b> | <b>Biomass-to-Liquid</b>       |
| FT-Diesel        | Fischer-Tropsch Diesel         |
| HTU-Dies.        | Hydro-Thermal-Upgrading Diesel |
| <b>GTL = GtL</b> | <b>Gas-to-Liquid</b>           |

# Classification of liquid biofuels by feedstock and final product



BtL... Biomass-to-Liquid, GtL... Gas-to-Liquid, ETBE... Ethyl tert-butyl ether, MTBE... Methyl tert-butyl ether, MeOH... Methanol, DME... Dimethyl ether. Pyrolysis oil, HTU-Diesel (Hydro Thermal Upgrading), ethanol and hydrogen from ligno-cellulosic species are not considered here because of their minor practical relevance in the near future.

Source: renac



# Classification of liquid biofuels by technology



## 1<sup>st</sup> Generation

- Vegetable oil
- Biodiesel
- Bioethanol
- Green diesel\*
- Bioethers\*\*
- etc.

\* Similar to biodiesel, but produced by fractional distillation.

\*\* MTBE (methyl-tertiary-butyl-ether) or ETBE (ethyl-tertiary-butyl-ether) made from bioethanol

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation

- FT fuels (Fischer-Tropsch)
- BioDME (Dimethyl ether)
- Biomethanol
- Butanol, Isobutanol
- DMF (Dimethylformamide)
- HTU diesel
- Mixed alcohols
- Wood diesel
- Pyrolysis oil (Bio-oil)
- etc.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation

- Ethanol from living algae
- etc.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation:

**Thermochemically produced liquid biofuels (bio-synthetic liquid fuels)** are made not only from solid but also from gaseous biofuels (e.g. syngas, biogas), called **Gas-to-Liquid (GtL)**. When solid biomass is the source of the gas production the process is also referred to as **Biomass-to-Liquids (BtL)**.

The second generation biofuels are under development, although it must be noted that most or all of these biofuels are **synthesized** from intermediary products such as syngas using methods that are identical in processes involving conventional feedstocks, first generation and second generation biofuels. The distinguishing feature is the technology involved in producing the intermediary product, rather than the ultimate off-take.

# Development of global production of liquid biofuels



## Share of biofuels on road transport fuels

in 2010: **3.0%** ( $\approx 0.5\%$  PEC)

in 2020/30: 4 - 6% incl. 2<sup>nd</sup> generation biofuels

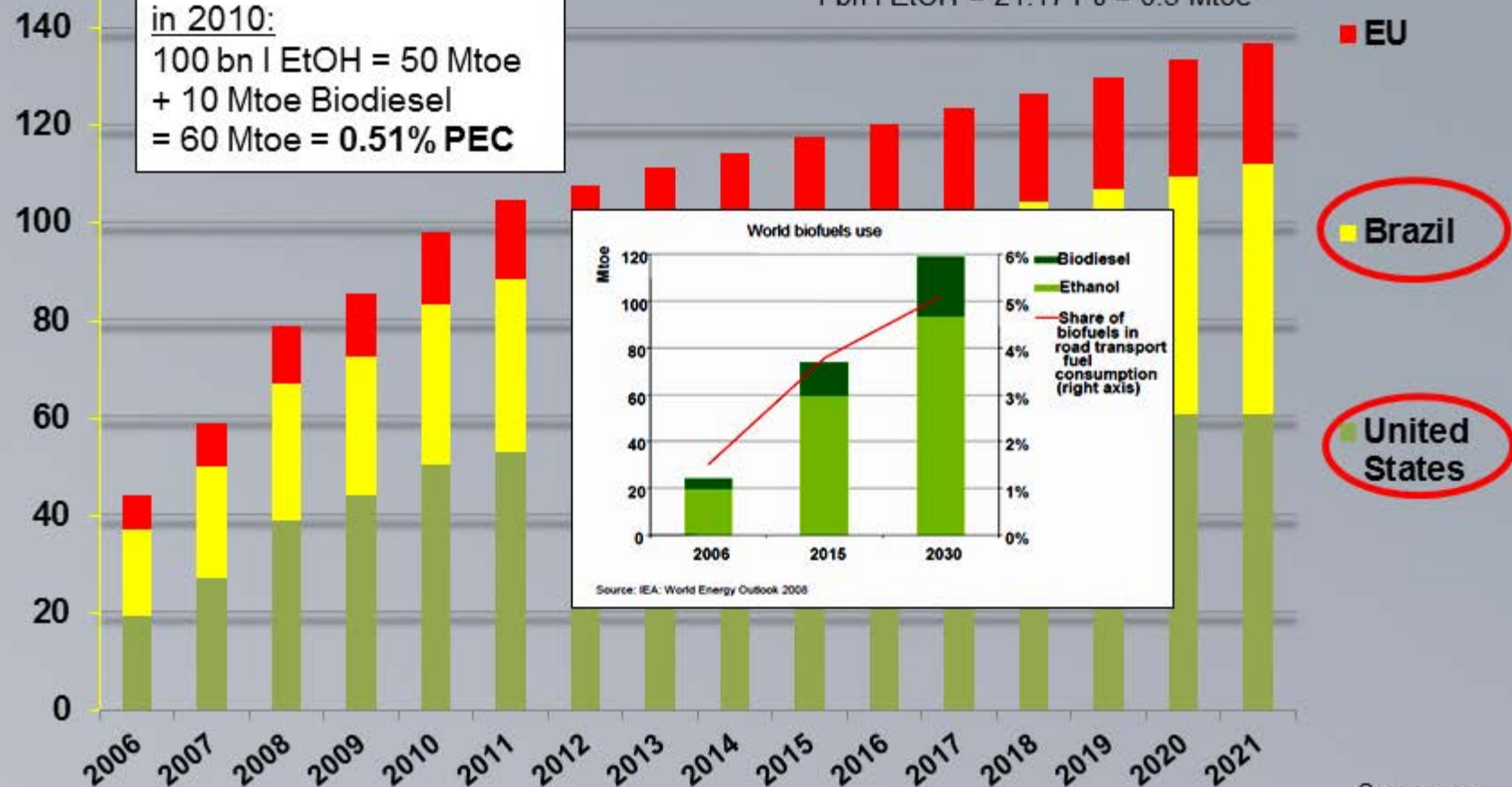
in 2050:  $\leq 27\%$  according to IEA (2011)

## Objective of biofuels share in Germany

in 2020: **10...12%** (7% GHG reduction)

accord. to EU Strategy of Decarbonisation and German Biokraftstoffquotengesetz

Bioethanol in billion liters



Source: renac

- ✦ Productivity of oil crops
- ✦ Production technologies
- ✦ Fuel characteristics
- ✦ Energetic utilisation
- ✦ Experiences and examples



# Feedstock of vegetable oils and biodiesel

Coconut oil



Sunflower oil



Palm oil



Jatropha



Used fats & oils



Soy

See also lesson „Bioenergy Feedstock“.

# Productivity of oil crops

## A rough survey



| Crop                       | kg oil/ha/yr | litres oil/ha |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| algae (open pond) [3]      | 80000        | 95000         |
| avocado                    | 2217         | 2638          |
| brazil nuts                | 2010         | 2392          |
| cacao (cocoa)              | 863          | 1026          |
| calendula                  | 256          | 305           |
| camelina                   | 490          | 583           |
| cashew nut                 | 148          | 176           |
| castor beans               | 1188         | 1413          |
| chinese tallow             | 3950         | 4700          |
| coconut                    | 2260         | 2689          |
| coffee                     | 386          | 459           |
| Copaifera langsdorffii [1] |              | 12000         |
| coriander                  | 450          | 536           |
| cotton                     | 273          | 325           |
| euphorbia                  | 440          | 524           |
| flax (linseed)             | 402          | 478           |
| hazelnuts                  | 405          | 482           |
| hemp                       | 305          | 363           |
| jatropha                   | 1590         | 1892          |
| jojoba                     | 1528         | 1818          |

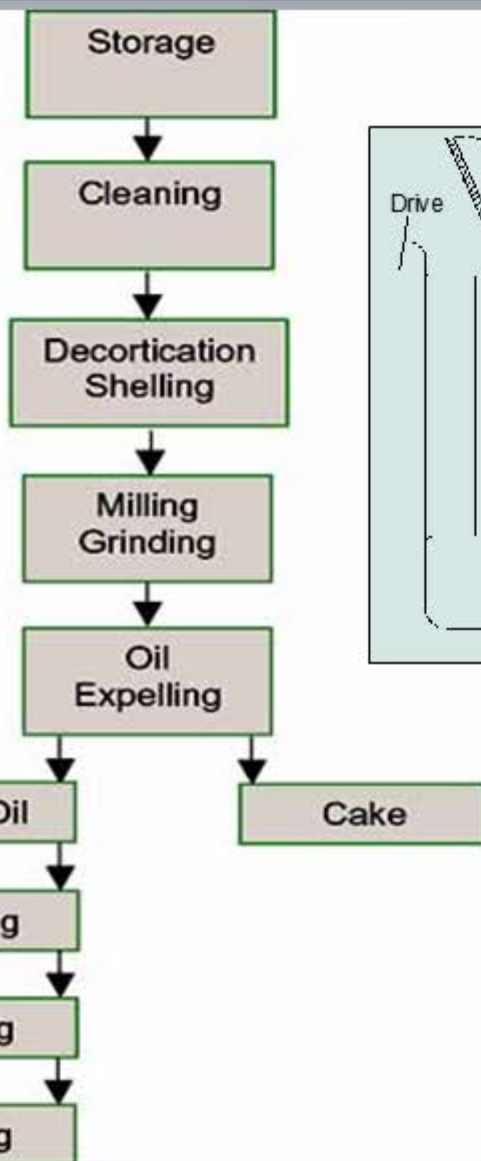
| Crop                 | kg oil/ha/yr | litres oil/ha |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| kenaf                | 230          | 273           |
| lupin (lupine)       | 195          | 232           |
| macadamia nuts       | 1887         | 2246          |
| maize (corn)         | 145          | 172           |
| Millettia pinnata[2] | 9000         |               |
| mustard seed         | 481          | 572           |
| oats                 | 183          | 217           |
| oil palm             | 5000         | 5950          |
| olives               | 1019         | 1212          |
| opium poppy          | 978          | 1163          |
| peanut               | 890          | 1059          |
| pecan nuts           | 1505         | 1791          |
| pumpkin seed         | 449          | 534           |
| rapeseed             | 1000         | 1190          |
| rice                 | 696          | 828           |
| safflower            | 655          | 779           |
| sesame               | 585          | 696           |
| soybean              | 375          | 446           |
| sunflowers           | 800          | 952           |
| tung tree            | 790          | 940           |

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table\\_of\\_biofuel\\_crop\\_yields](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table_of_biofuel_crop_yields)

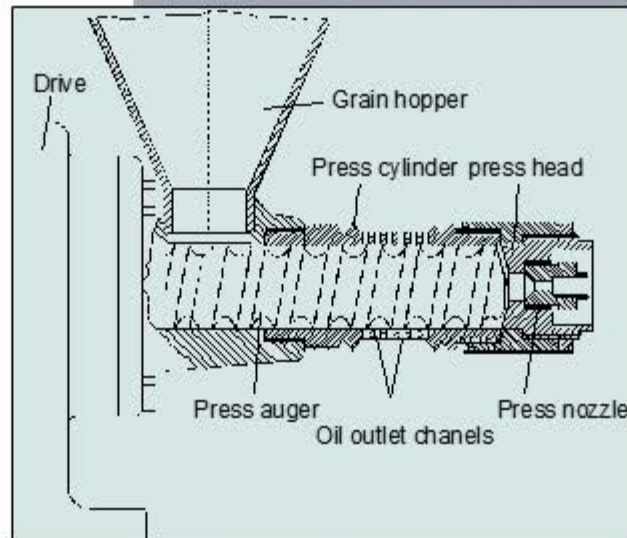
See also "Bioenergy Feedstock"!



# Technology of oil production including extraction process



Oil press = Expeller  
= Screw-type press



The relevant part of the seed may be placed under **pressure** to "extract" the oil, giving an **expressed oil**. → **The most used method worldwide, for decentralized (small) production.**

**$80 \pm 10\%$  of oil content**

Oils may also be extracted from seeds by **dissolving** parts of seeds in water or another solvent. The solution may be separated from the plant material and concentrated, giving an **extracted or leached oil**. → **The highest oil output. (modern technology, for centralized production)**

**$\leq 99\%$  of oil content**



# Extraction efficiency of the lab Piteba oil expeller



|                       |                               |                   |                                 |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Crop                  | Sunflower<br>(black oil seed) | Rapeseed / Canola | Cocoa beans<br>(undecortitated) | Walnut<br>(kernel)    | Oil palm<br>kernel |
| Extraction efficiency | 76...84 %                     | 75 %              | 65 %                            | 89 %                  | 68 %               |
| Crop                  | Shelled<br>groundnut          | Niger seed / noog | Jatropha                        | Linseed /<br>flaxseed | Babassu            |
| Extraction efficiency | 70 %                          | 84 %              | 77 %                            | 85 %                  | 85 %               |
| Crop                  | Hemp seed                     | Safflower         | Hazelnut                        |                       |                    |
| Extraction efficiency | 68 %                          | 78 %              | 81 %                            |                       |                    |
| Crop                  | Almond                        | Beechnuts         | Coprah (oil)                    |                       |                    |
| Extraction efficiency | 89 %                          | 77 %              | 87 %                            |                       |                    |



**Big expellers in industry  
achieve higher values!**

Source: <http://www.piteba.com>

## Fuel parameters of vegetable oils used in engines (1)



- ✓ **Density** determines the volumetric **calorific value** among with the calorific value (the mass) and therefore fuel consumption.
- ✓ **Heating/Calorific value (LHV)** determines the content of energy, which can be transformed into the engine and consequently the **power and consumption**.
- ✓ **Kinematic viscosity** characterizes the power to run, and dose the fuel flow and thus the **course of combustion, power and consumption**. Too high Viscosity cause ignition of the injection nozzles. **Depends on temperature!**
- ✓ **Cetane number** determines the **course of combustion** (tendency to beat) and therefore the **power, consumption and engine wear**.
- ✓ **Pour point = Solidification point** of determining the **temperature** at which the oil starts to become **solid** and cause problems in flow and dose. A mixture with additives can prevent the solidification of the fuel.

## Fuel parameters of vegetable oils used in engines (2)



- ✓ **Flash point** is the **minimum temperature** to which the pure liquid fuel must be heated so that the vapour pressure is sufficiently high **for an explosive mixture** to be formed with air when then the liquid is allowed to evaporate and is brought into **contact with a flame, spark or hot filament**. Vegetable oils have an ignition point higher than the diesel. So they need good materials and good radiators.
- ✓ **Another point: (Auto-)Ignition Temperature** is the minimum temperature to which the fuel-oxidiser mixture (or a portion of it) must be heated in order for the combustion reaction to occur **without an external flame**. Flashpoints are lower than ignition temperatures.
- ✓ **Iodine number** determines the **unsaturated fatty acids** (number of double bonds). Oils with high iodine numbers harden (**form resins**) with high temperatures and/or with influence of **oxygen and ultraviolet radiation**. They cause resins in the tank (**storage problem**), in tubes and in the injection system.
- ✓ **Index of acidity = Number of neutralization** (total acid number TAN) indicates the value of oil acidity and the corrosion potential. Mixed with diesel oil (primary) **cause soap** and reduce the durability of **fuel filters** and **motor oil**.



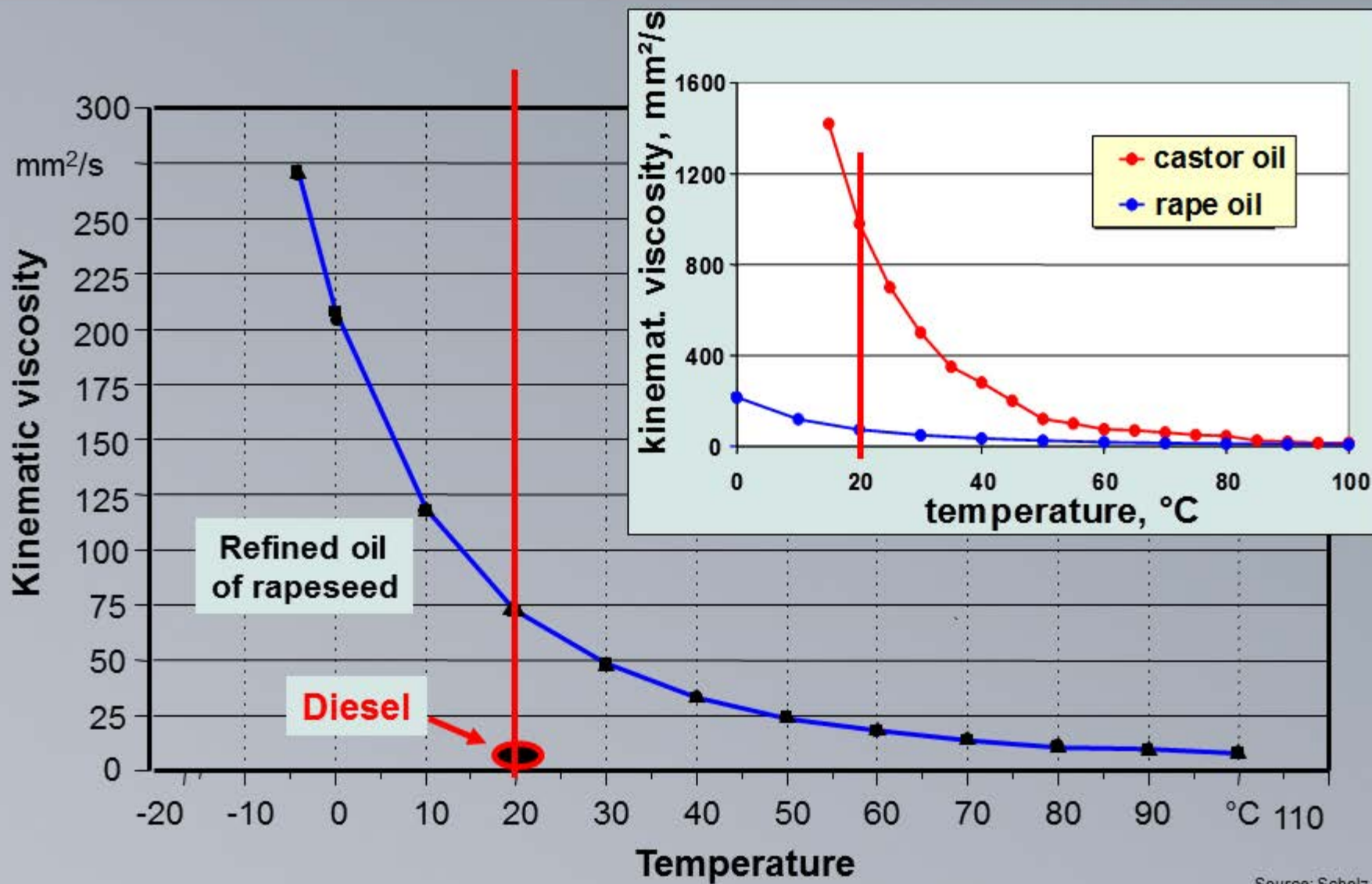
## Other fuel characteristics:

**Phosphatidics, Turbid substances.** They swell with the presence of water, **clogs filters** and promote microbial **breakdown** of oil. Phosphatidics crystallize in the cylinder and accelerate the **wear** of the engine.

- ✓ **Free fatty acids FFA** (determined by the index of acidity) reduce the ignition point and **viscosity**, but increase the corrosion and **wear** of the engine.
- ✓ **Oxidation stability**
- ✓ **Amount of sulfur**
- ✓ **Amount of phosphorus (see phosphatidic)**
- ✓ **Total amount of Mg and Ca**
- ✓ **Quantity of ash**
- ✓ **Water content (Humidity)**
- ✓ **Amount of carbon residues**
- ✓ **Amount of impurities (dirt) total**

# Viscosity

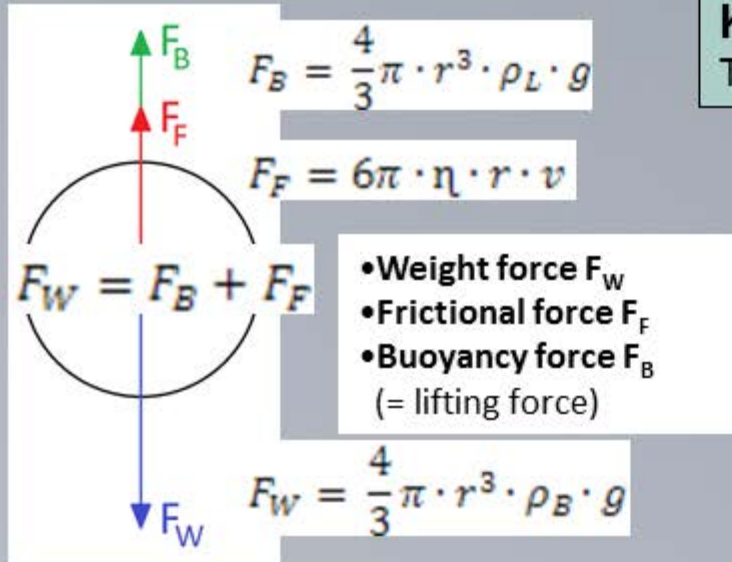
A very important parameter



Source: Scholz, 2005

**Viscosity** is a measure of the **resistance** of a fluid which is being deformed by either shear or tensile stress.

**Dynamic viscosity**  $\eta_{(\text{dyn})}$  in kg/(m s) or Poise.  
**Kinematic viscosity**  $\nu_{(\text{kin})}$  in mm<sup>2</sup>/s or Stokes.  
 The latter is mostly used for liquid fuels.



$$\eta_{(\text{dyn})} = \frac{2}{9} \cdot \frac{r^2 \cdot g}{v} \cdot (\rho_B - \rho_L)$$

$$\nu_{(\text{kin})} = \frac{\eta_{\text{dyn}}}{\rho_L}$$

$r$  ... Radius of the ball (mm)  
 $v$  ... Velocity of the ball (m/s)  
 $g$  ... Gravitational acceleration (9.81 m/s<sup>2</sup>)  
 $\rho_B$  ... Density of ball (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)  
 $\rho_L$  ... Density of liquid (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

A liquids' viscosity can be measured using the **law of Stokes**:

**"Three forces act on a dropping ball"**

Weight force ( $F_W$ ) accelerates the ball, frictional force ( $F_F$ ) and buoyancy force ( $F_B$ ) act in the opposite direction. The density of the ball ( $\rho_B$ ) determines weight force ( $F_W$ ) and buoyancy force ( $F_B$ ), whereas frictional force ( $F_F$ ) depends on the ball's velocity ( $v$ ). When dropped with  $v_{\text{start}} = 0$ , the ball accelerates and reaches a steady speed. Dropping at steady speed, the three forces are in equilibrium.

Source: Schneider, Renac (2011)



# Fuel characteristics of selected vegetable oils (1)



|               | Density<br>(15° C)<br>kg/dm <sup>3</sup> | LHV<br>MJ/kg | Kin. Visco-<br>sity (20°C)<br>mm <sup>2</sup> /s | Cetan<br>number<br>- | Pour<br>point<br>°C | Flash<br>point<br>°C | Number<br>of iodine<br>- | Index of<br>acidity<br>mg KOH/g |
|---------------|--|--------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Diesel</b> | 0,84                                     | 42,7         | 4...6  | 50                   | -                   | 80                   | -                        | -                               |
| Castor oil    | 0,95 <sup>1)</sup>                       | 37,2         | 297  | 42                   | -10...-18           | 229                  | 82...89                  | 175...187                       |
| Rapeseed oil  | 0,92                                     | 37,6         | 74   | 40                   | 0...-3              | 317                  | 94...113                 | 167...180                       |
| Sunflower oil | 0,93                                     | 37,1         | 66   | 35,5                 | -16...-18           | 316                  | 118...144                | 186...194                       |
| Soybean oil   | 0,93                                     | 37,1         | 63,5   | 38,5                 | -8...-18            | 350                  | 114...138                | 188...195                       |
| Linseed oil   | 0,93                                     | 37           | 51   | (52)                 | -18...-27           | -                    | 169...192                | 187...197                       |
| Olive oil     | 0,92                                     | 37,8         | 83,8   | 37,1                 | -5...-9             | -                    | 76...90                  | 186...196                       |
| Cotton oil    | 0,93                                     | 36,8         | 89,4   | 41                   | -6...-14            | 320                  | 90...117                 | 189...198                       |
| Jatropha oil  | 0,91                                     | 37,2         | 71   | (51)                 | -                   | 340                  | (103)                    | (138)                           |
| Coco oil      | 0,87                                     | 35,3         | 21,7 <sup>1)</sup>                               | -                    | 14...25             |                      | 7...10                   | 246...268                       |
| Palm oil      | 0,92                                     | 37           | 29,4 <sup>1)</sup>                               | 42                   | 27...43             | 267                  | 34...61                  | 195...206                       |
| P. kernel oil | -  | 35,5         | 21,5 <sup>1)</sup>                               | -                    | 20...24             | -                    | 14...22                  | 245...255                       |

1) Kinematic viscosity for 50 °C

2) Temperatur not stated

the most different values from Diesel

Source: Scholz, 2005

# Fuel characteristics of selected vegetable oils (2)



| Vegetable oil       | Visc. <sup>a</sup><br>mm <sup>2</sup> /s | Cetane <sup>b</sup><br>No. | HHV<br>kJ/kg | Cloud<br>point<br>°C | Pour<br>point<br>°C | Flash<br>point<br>°C | Density<br>kg/l | Water<br>&<br>sed.<br>%v | Carbon<br>residue<br>%w | Ash<br>%w | Sulphur<br>%w | Copper<br>Corros.<br>h | Induction<br>period<br>h |
|---------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Castor              | 297                                      | ?                          | 37274        | none                 | -31.7               | 260                  | 0.9537          | trace                    | 0.22                    | <0.01     | 0.01          | 1a                     | 95.0                     |
| Corn                | 34.9                                     | 37.6                       | 39500        | -1.1                 | -40.0               | 277                  | 0.9095          | trace                    | 0.24                    | 0.01      | 0.01          | 1a                     | 9.3                      |
| Cottonseed          | 33.5                                     | 41.8                       | 39468        | 1.7                  | -15.0               | 234                  | 0.9148          | 0.04                     | 0.24                    | 0.01      | 0.01          | 1a                     | 7.3                      |
| Crambe              | 53.6                                     | 44.6                       | 40482        | 10.0                 | -12.2               | 274                  | 0.9044          | 0.2                      | 0.23                    | 0.05      | 0.01          | 1a                     | 9.0                      |
| Linseed             | 27.2                                     | 34.6                       | 39307        | 1.7                  | -15.0               | 241                  | 0.9236          | trace                    | 0.22                    | <0.01     | 0.01          | 1a                     | 2.9                      |
| Peanut              | 39.6                                     | 41.8                       | 39782        | 12.8                 | -6.7                | 271                  | 0.9026          | trace                    | 0.24                    | 0.005     | 0.01          | 1a                     | 6.4                      |
| Rapeseed            | 37.0                                     | 37.6                       | 39709        | -3.9                 | -31.7               | 246                  | 0.9115          | trace                    | 0.30                    | 0.054     | 0.01          | 1a                     | 10.0                     |
| Safflower           | 31.3                                     | 41.3                       | 39519        | 18.3                 | -6.7                | 260                  | 0.9144          | trace                    | 0.25                    | 0.006     | 0.01          | 1a                     | 3.1                      |
| H.O. Safflower      | 41.2                                     | 49.1                       | 39516        | -12.2                | -20.6               | 293                  | 0.9021          | trace                    | 0.24                    | <0.001    | 0.02          | 1a                     | 9.8                      |
| Sesame              | 35.5                                     | 40.2                       | 39349        | -3.9                 | -9.4                | 260                  | 0.9133          | trace                    | 0.25                    | <0.01     | 0.01          | 1a                     | 8.7                      |
| Soybean             | 32.6                                     | 37.9                       | 39623        | -3.9                 | -12.2               | 254                  | 0.9138          | trace                    | 0.27                    | <0.01     | 0.01          | 1a                     | 7.4                      |
| Sunflower           | 33.9                                     | 37.1                       | 39575        | 7.2                  | -15.0               | 274                  | 0.9161          | trace                    | 0.23                    | <0.01     | 0.01          | 1a                     | 5.4                      |
| Diesel <sup>c</sup> | 2.7                                      | 47                         | 45343        | -15.0                | -33.0               | 52                   | 0.8400          | <0.05                    | <0.35                   | <0.01     | <0.01         | 3                      | <150                     |

a measured at 38° C

b measured using a modified form of ASTM D613 in which ignition delays were observed visually

c Typical No.2

Source: CIGR Handbook of Agricultural Engineering, Vol. 5, 1999

## Fuel characteristics of selected vegetable oils (3)



|                | Cetan number | Iodine value | LHV   | Flash point |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|-------|-------------|
|                | -            | -            | MJ/kg | °C          |
| Sun flower oil | 36           | 109-120      | 37,1  | 316         |
| Soy bean oil   | 39           | 114-138      | 37,1  | 350         |
| Cottonseed oil | 41           | 103-115      | 34,2  | 320         |
| Jatropha oil   | 51           | 99-105       | 37    | 240         |
| Palm oil       | 42           | 34-61        | 34    | 267         |
| Rapeseed oil   | 40           | 94-113       | 36    | 317         |

### ... and further reasons for regulating/controlling the biofuels:

- **Climate change**
  - Biofuels as an important part to contribute to GHG emission reductions
  - → Policies to promote the production and the usage of biofuels.
- **Feedstock**
  - Sustainability → The feedstock is not to harm the environment.
- **Usage of biofuels in engines**
  - Fuel quality → Car manufacturers demand for quality standards.



# Quality norm of straight vegetable oil for use as transport fuel



## German standard DIN 51 605:2010-10 Part 1 for rapeseed oil

| Parameter                     | Value  |      | Unit               |
|-------------------------------|--|------|--------------------|
|                               | min.   | max. |                    |
| Visual Inspection             | Limpid, no free water visible, no contaminations visible |      |                    |
| Density at 15 °C              | 910  | 925  | kg/m <sup>3</sup>  |
| Viscosity at 40 °C            | -  | 36   | mm <sup>2</sup> /s |
| Calorific Value, lower        | 36   | -    | MJ/kg              |
| Iodine Value                  | -  | 125  | g Iod/100g         |
| Acid Value                    | -  | 2    | mg KOH/g           |
| Flash Point                   | 101  | -    | °C                 |
| Ignition Quality (DCN)        | 40   | -    | -                  |
| Oxidation Stability at 110 °C | 6  | -    | h                  |
| Sulfur Content                | -  | 10   | mg/kg              |
| Phosphorous Content           | -  | 3    | mg/kg              |
| Ca Content                    | -  | 1    | mg/kg              |
| Mg Content                    | -  | 1    | mg/kg              |
| Water Content                 | -  | 750  | mg/kg              |

# Use of straight vegetable oil in engines



## Vegetable oils are different from diesel:

- Many triglycerides and diglycerides
- High **viscosity** and **pour point**
- High **flash point**
  - Need of high pressure
  - Need of pre-heating

## Options:

- ~~Unmodified diesel engines~~
- ~~Blending with diesel~~
- **Special SVO engines**
- **Modified diesel engines (kit)**
- **Transesterification !!!**

Vegetable oil can be **principally used** in some **older diesel engines** that do not use common rail or unit injection electronic diesel injection systems. However, only a handful of drivers have experienced **limited success**.

With unmodified engines some unfavorable effects may be reduced by **blending**, or "cutting", the SVO/PPO with diesel fuel. However, **opinions vary (!)** as to the efficacy of this.

Several companies like Elsbett have developed **special SVO-engines** . (Indirect injection (pre-chamber), high pressure, good mixing with air, and pre-heating of oil are favorable)

Later on were developed various **conversion kits** and installed hundreds of them over the last decades (see following slides).

## Mixing of fuels not advisable:

- Different fuels have different properties
- Binding of moisture (rape seed oil is hygroscopic, palm oil is not)
- Different pour points → different pre-heating
- Chemical reactions after mixing → corrosion
- Injection system properties not as flexible as viscosity of fuels
- Separation effects after mixing

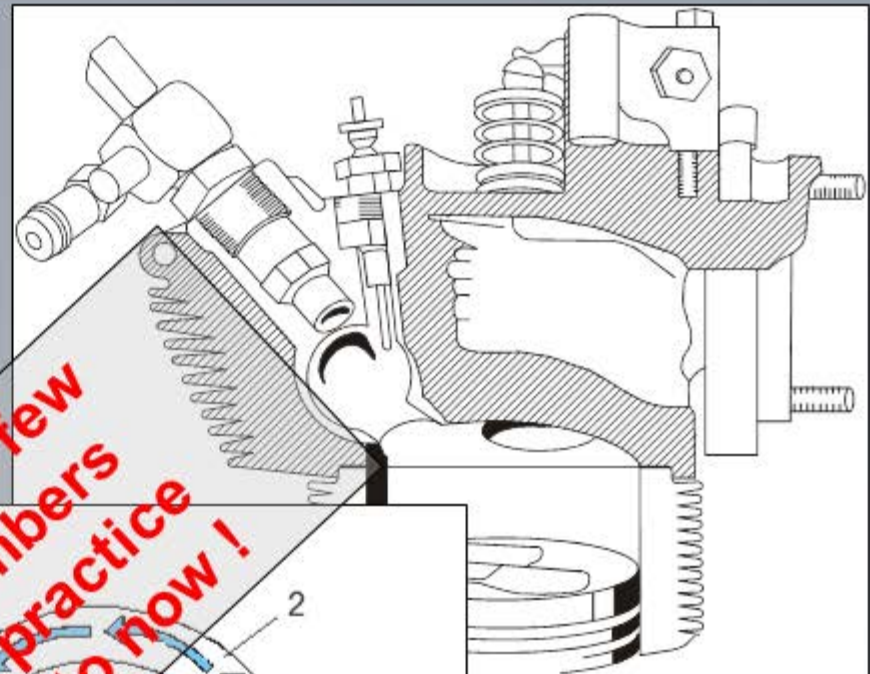
Source: renac



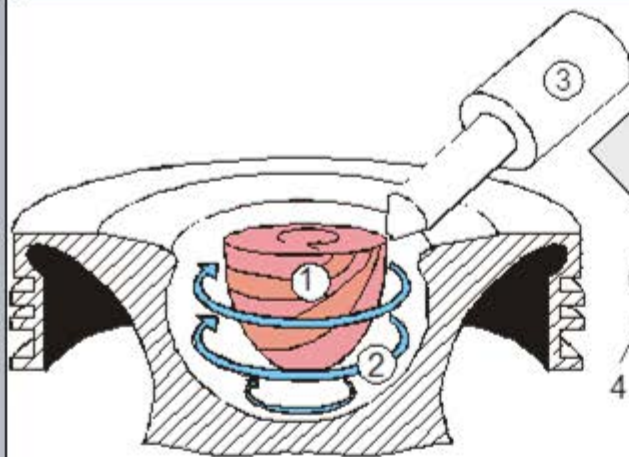
# Principles of special motors for straight vegetable oil

Principle of an engine with  
centrifugal pre-chamber  
(KHD Engine FL-912W)

Indirect injection (pre-chamber),  
high pressure, good mixing with  
air,  
and pre-heating of oil  
are favourable!

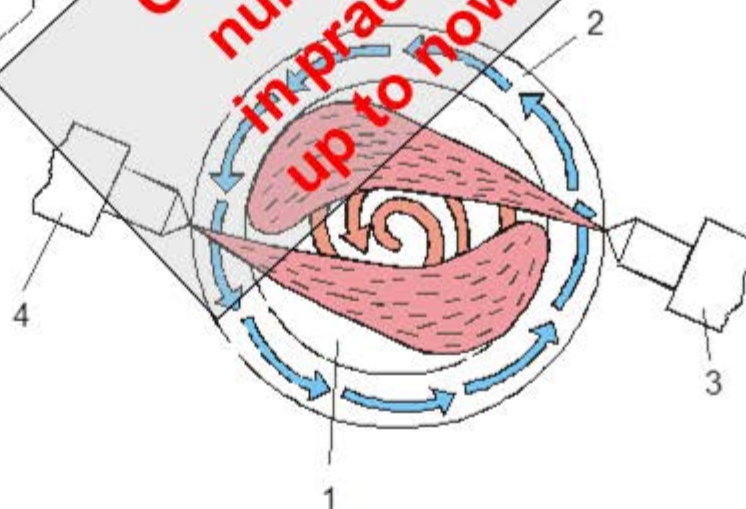


Only a few  
numbers  
in practice  
up to now !



- 1 combustion zone
- 2 air mantle
- 3 nozzle

Principle  
of Elsbett  
Engine  
(Duotherm  
system)





### in diesel engines with different kit types

- ✓ The results significantly depend on the **type of engine** and **kit**.
- ✓ The **conditions** of use are important.  
E.g. many dead points (no load) cause a dilution of motor oil by vegetable oil.
- ✓ **Two tanks** (diesel + vegetable oil) facilitate the system and are more secure.
- ✓ The **power** is on average as **the diesel engine** ( $\pm 10\%$ ), but during operation with low load power is lower.
- ✓ The **emission** values are **similar**. NOx is slightly higher, but much lower phosphorus.
- ✓ The oil enters in motor oil so the **oil changes intervals** should not exceed more than **200-250 hours**.
- ✓ The **durability of the fuel filter is decreased**. The ranges of exchange of the filters should be half of the conventional diesel engines.
- ✓ The **quality of oil** has a great influence. The most important parameters are the **impurities** (particles  $< 1\mu\text{m}$ ), the amount of **phosphorus** (10 to 15 ppm) and the **number of neutralization** (e.g. because of bad storage).

### The main kit components are:

- Controller
- Additional fuel tank (optional)
- Electric switching unit
- Electric fuel preheater
- Heat exchanger
- Control electronics
- Pre-assembled cable loom
- ATG Controller
- Additional fuel tank (optional)

>2000 €

Only a few applications  
in practice  
up to now!

# Use of straight vegetable oil in trucks, busses and tractors

## Examples:

40 busses and trucks operated with  
vegetable oil  
Operator: Omnibusverkehr Bühler  
GmbH & Co.  
9 Mio kms with 2 Mil. Liters of  
vegetable oil

**Rare Examples!**



Source: northseabioenergy.org

**In German agriculture vegetable oil is  
sometimes used due to tax advantages.**



**The better option  
is biodiesel!!!**

Source: renac



# Use of straight vegetable oil in (combined heat) power plants

## Example:

- Operator of the plant: ItalGreen Energy
- Engine supplier: Wärtsilä
- Power output: 24 MW (el.)
- Fuel: vegetable oils
- World largest bio-oil fuelled CHP- plant
- Start of operation: 2004
- Operation closed: 2013 due to permitting issues



## CHP-engine-suppliers for vegetable oil:

Well experienced:

- Wärtsilä
- MAN B&W
- ABC

Less experienced:

- Lindenberg
- Caterpillar (MAK)

A few large CHP projects in operation for years, but some of them were stopped because of technical and sustainability reasons.



- ✦ Definition and benefits
- ✦ Basics and technologies of transesterification
- ✦ Characteristics of biodiesel
- ✦ Biodiesel standards
- ✦ Exhaust emissions
- ✦ Examples

# Definition and benefits of biodiesel



**Biodiesel** (**FAME** = **F**atty **A**cid **M**ethyl **E**ster) refers to a **vegetable oil-** or **animal fat-based diesel fuel** consisting of long-chain alkyl (methyl, propyl or ethyl) esters. Biodiesel is typically made by chemically reacting lipids (e.g., vegetable oil, animal fat (tallow)) **with an alcohol**.

Biodiesel is meant to be used in **standard diesel engines** and is thus distinct from the vegetable and waste oils used to fuel converted diesel engines. Biodiesel can be **used alone**, or **blended** with petrodiesel, e.g. 7% biodiesel (B7). Biodiesel can also be used as a low carbon alternative to **heating oil**.

Biodiesel provides several benefits:

- **reducing the risk of explosion,**
- **no groundwater pollution** in the case of leakages,
- **no need of adaptation** of engines for low percentages, e.g. B7.

**Highly blended petrodiesel (>B7) and pure biodiesel need an authorization from the manufacturer of the engine!!!**  
And it is recommended to change oil and fuel filter more often.



Source: nuffieldbioethics.org

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiesel>

## Largest biodiesel producers by feedstock and country



| Feedstock                 | Countries  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Rapeseed                  | Canada, China, India, Germany, France, Australia           |
| Soy Bean                  | China, USA, Argentina, Brazil                              |
| Oil Palm                  | Indonesia, Malaysia (85% of global production of palm oil) |
| Coconut                   | Philippines, Indonesia, India                              |
| Olives                    | Spain, Italy, Greece, Syria, Morocco, Turkey               |
| Cotton Seed               | China, India, Pakistan, Brazil, USA                        |
| Used cooking & frying oil | Japan, Switzerland, UAE, Germany                           |
| Beef Tallow               | USA, Ireland   |
| Sunflower seeds           | Ukraine, Russian Fed., Argentina                           |

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, 2014, [www.indexmundi.com](http://www.indexmundi.com)



# Basics of transesterification of vegetable oil (1)

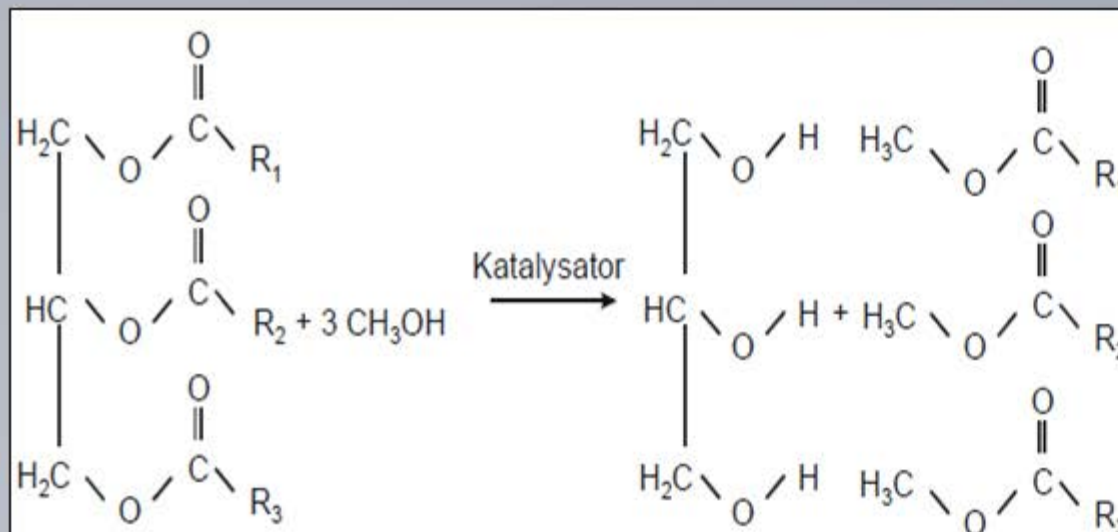


The limitations of the use of vegetable oils in engines are related to various characteristics, such as **high viscosity**, **fatty acid** composition in the presence of **free fatty acids** as well as the trend showing the formation of **gum** by the processes of oxidation and **polymerization**, either during its **storage** or **combustion**.

**The undesirable properties of vegetable oils can be transferred by transesterification to biodiesel.**

## Other terms of biodiesel:

|               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>FAME</b>   | Fatty Acid Methyl Ester     |
| <b>FAMAE</b>  | Fatty Acid Mono Alkyl Ester |
| <b>FAEE</b>   | Fatty Acid Ethyl Ester      |
| <b>VOME</b>   | Vegetable Oil Methyl Ester  |
| <b>R(S)ME</b> | Rape Seed Methyl Ester      |



Triglyceride + 3 Methanol → 1 Glycerin + 3 Fatty acid methyl ester

**Transesterification  
of triglycerides  
by methanol**

Source: renac

# Basics of transesterification of vegetable oil (2)



## Reaction

Esterification or transesterification reaction.  
FA molecules break away from glycerol and esterify an alkyl coming from alcohol molecule.

## Alcohol

Either **methanol** or **ethanol**.

Reaction with methanol is faster, but costs of raw material should be considered

## Catalysts

Reduce the temperature and duration of reaction.  
Sodium hydroxide, sodium methoxide and potassium hydroxide.  
Sodium metoxide prevents any **saponification** reaction.

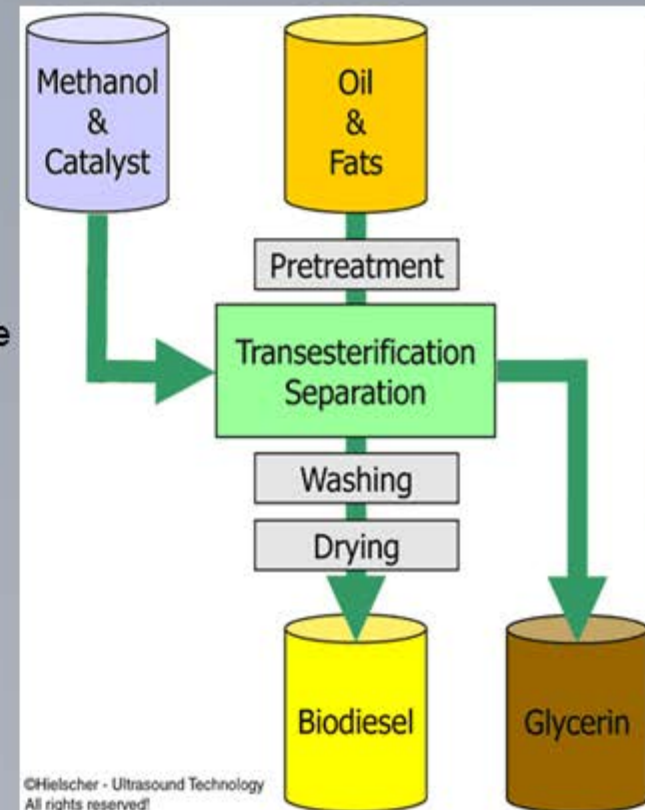
## Temperature

Medium-high temperature or **room temperature**  
process

Continuous (and pressurized) process.

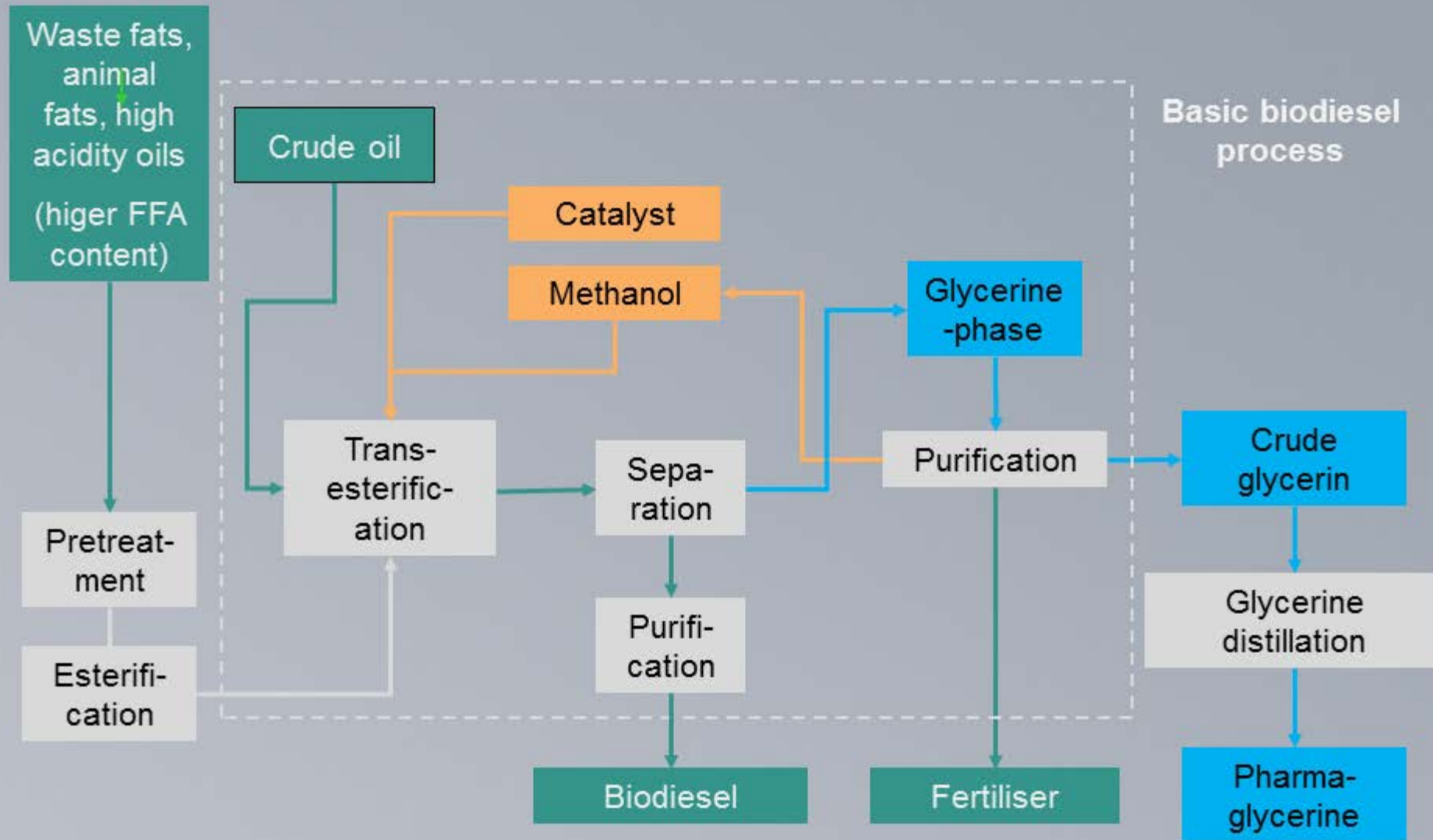
### In research: Transesterification *in situ*

A transesterification in the uncrushed seed grain with methanol or ethanol and acid between 30 °C and 70 °C also seems to be possible.



Source: renac

# Technology of transesterification of vegetable oils, waste and animal fats



Source: renac

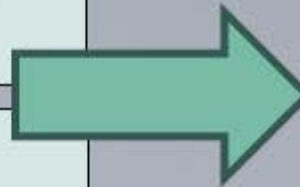


# Mass balance of biodiesel production by transesterification



|         |                                       |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 1002 kg | Vegetable oil                         |
| 113 kg  | Methanol                              |
| 14 kg   | KOH (base)                            |
| 12 kg   | H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (acid) |

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 21 kg             | Water         |
| 32 m <sup>3</sup> | Cooling water |
| 390 kg            | Steam         |
| 62 kWh            | Electricity   |



## Example Rapeseed

### Products

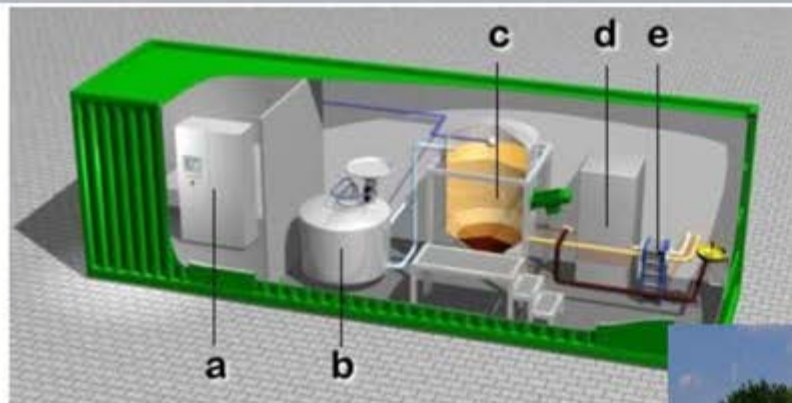
|         |            |
|---------|------------|
| 1000 kg | Biodiesel  |
| 118 kg  | Glycerine  |
| 22 kg   | Fertilizer |

Source: Energea

# Biodiesel production in commercial scale

## Large-scale suppliers (>100'000 t/a):

- Evonik Industries AG (Germany)
- DeSmet Ballestra (Italy)
- GEA Westfalia (Germany)
- MAN Ferrostaal (Germany)
- AT Agrartechnik (Germany)
- CPM SKET GmbH (Germany)
- Axens, IFP Group (France)
- JJ-Lurgi (Malaysia)
- BDI Biodiesel (Austria)
- Biodiesel Technologies (Czech Rep.)
- Pacific Biodiesel (US)



## **Decentralized production in a container unit**

Capacity: 900 t/y  
Price: 250 000 Euro



More details, types,  
manufacturers and prices in:  
Scholz, V.: Prospects and  
Limits of the Energetic Use of  
Castor Oil. Bornimer  
Agrartechnische Berichte, Heft  
52, 2005



# Biodiesel production

## by DIY method (do it yourself)

### Here's what you need:

- 1 litre of new vegetable oil, fresh, uncooked
- 200 ml of methanol, 99+% pure
- lye catalyst, either potassium hydroxide (KOH) or sodium hydroxide (NaOH) can be used, but we recommend KOH, especially for beginners -- KOH is easier to use and it gives better results
- blender or preferably a mini-processor
- scales accurate to 0.1 grams, preferably less – 0.01 grams is best
- measuring beakers for methanol and oil
- half-litre translucent white HDPE container with bung and screw-on cap
- 2 funnels to fit the HDPE container, one for methanol, the other for lye
- 2-litre PET bottle (water or soft-drinks bottle) for settling two 2-litre PET bottles for washing
- duct tape
- thermometer

Source: [journeytoforever.org/biodiesel\\_make.html#biodnew](http://journeytoforever.org/biodiesel_make.html#biodnew)

Source: doityourselfrv.com



**Attention,  
it's not professional!**



# Specifications of biodiesel compared with SVO and diesel



| Characteristic         | Unit                  | Diesel fuel | Raw oil | Refined oil | Methyl ester |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Density                | kg/dm <sup>3</sup>    | 0,82-0,85   | 0,915   | 0,910       | 0,86-0,90    |
| Kin. viscosity at 40°C | cSt                   | 2-3         | 32      | 30          | 3,5-5,0      |
| Net calorific value    | MJ/kg                 | 42-43       | 39,4    | 40,2        | 40,0         |
| Filtration limit point | °C                    | -18         | -6      | -1          | -9-24        |
| Cetane number          |                       | 49,2        | 40      | 40          | 48-49        |
| Distillation range     | °C                    | 180-360     | 359-893 | 350-890     | 300-360      |
| Flash point            | °C                    | 74          | 300     | 300         | >100         |
| Ashes                  | %in peso              | 0,002       | 0,1     | 0,01        | <0,01        |
| Total acidity          | mg KOH/g              | —           | 2,8     | <1          | <0,5-0,8     |
| Saponification numb.   | mg KOH/g              | —           | 190,3   | 180-190     | <170         |
| Iodine number          | gI <sub>2</sub> /100g | —           | 110-130 | 110-130     | 110-125      |
| Phosphorous content    | ppm                   | —           | 180     | <10         | 10-20        |
| Water content          | ppm                   | —           | 1000    | <500        | 300-700      |



**... and environmental friendly!**

Source: Riva, Sisoor



# Biodiesel standards in EU and USA (1)





| Properties          |  EN 14214 |  ASTM D 6751 |                            |           |
|---------------------|--|---|----------------------------|-----------|
|                     | Unit   | Limits  | Unit                       | Limits    |
| Ester content       | % (m/m)  | 96.5  | -                          | -         |
| Density at 15 °C    | kg/m³  | 860 - 900   | -                          | -         |
| Viscosity at 40 °C  | mm²/s  | 3.50 – 5.00   | mm.²/sec                   | 1.9-6.0   |
| Flash point         | °C   | 120 min   | °C                         | 130 min   |
| Sulfur content      | mg/kg  | 10.0 max  | % mass                     | 0.05 max  |
| Carbon residue      | % (m/m)  | 0.30 max  | % mass                     | 0.050 max |
| Cetane number       |  | 51.0 min  |                            | 47 min    |
| Sulfated ash        | % (m/m)  | 0.02 max  | % mass                     | 0.02 max  |
| Water content       | mg/kg  | 500 max   | % volume<br>Water/sediment | 0.050 max |
| Total contamination | mg/kg  | 24 max  | -                          | -         |

Source: renac

# Biodiesel standards in EU and USA (2)



| Properties              |  EN 14214 |  ASTM D 6751 |          |           |
|-------------------------|--|---|----------|-----------|
|                         | Unit   | Limit   | Unit     | Limit     |
| Copper strip corrosion  | rating   | class 1   |          | No. 3 max |
| Cloud point             | -  | *)  | °C       | Report    |
| Oxidation stability     | hours  | 6.0 min   | -        | -         |
| Acid value              | mg KOH/g   | 0.5 max   | Mg KOH/g | 0.8 max   |
| Iodine value            | g/100g   | 120 max   | -        | -         |
| Free glycerol           | % (m/m)  | 0.02 max  | % mass   | 0.02      |
| Total glycerol          | % (m/m)  | 0.25 max  | % mass   | 0.24      |
| Group I metals (Na+K)   | mg/kg  | 5.0 max   | -        | -         |
| Group II metals (Ca+Mg) | mg/kg  | 5.0 max   |          |           |
| Phosphorus content      | mg/kg  | 10.0 max  | % mass   | 0.001 max |
| Distillation temp. 90%  | -  | -   | o C      | 360 max   |

Source: renac



# Comparison of biodiesel standards and some fuel characteristics



|                       | Cetan number | Iodine value | Acid value |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
|                       | -            | g/100 g      | mg KOH/g   |
| Straight rapeseed oil | 36- 51       | 34-138       | <20        |
| Biodiesel             | 48-55        | 95-125       | <0.5-0.8   |
| Vegetable waste oil   | 38-85        | 10-130       | <150       |
| US Standard           | > 47         | -            | <0.8       |
| EU Standard           | >51          | <120         | <0.5       |

100% soybean or sunflower no problem

A mixture of e.g.  
60% rapeseed  
0-40% palm  
0-20% soybean

- Feedstock relates directly to the product quality. For example iodine value

Not influenced by any process: iodine in = iodine out

Sunflower and soy bean have high iodine

Cheaper feedstock often have lower iodine number (animal fats)

- Free fatty acids (acid value)

Vegetable oils: 1-2% FFA

Animal fats: FFA > 5%

Destroys alkali catalyst

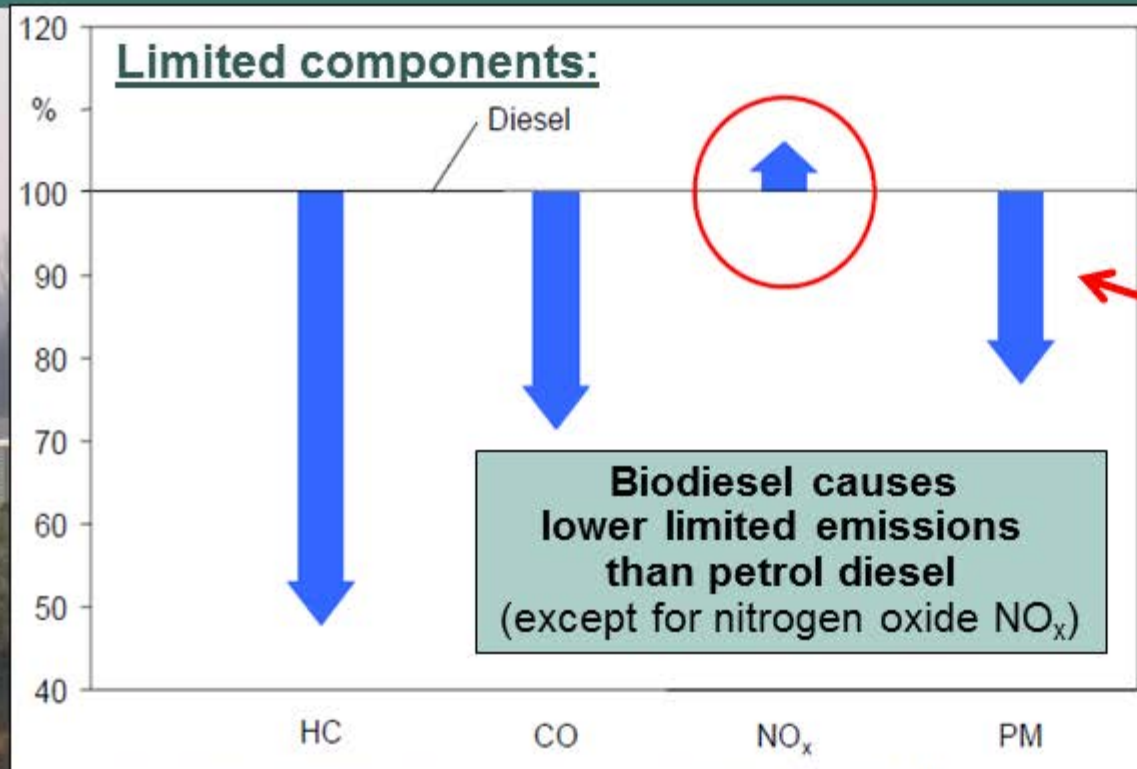
Removal through acid esterification before transesterification

**From some oils an EN14214 product cannot be made!**

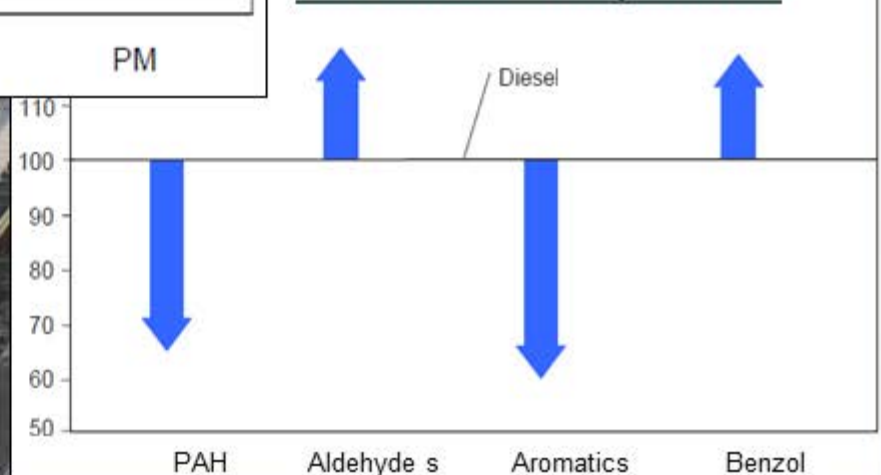
important for export

Source: renac

# Exhaust emissions of biodiesel compared to diesel



## Not limited components:



Source: Jürgen Krah; Axel Munack: Biodiesel - Ein Meilenstein auf dem Weg zur nachhaltigen Mobilität. Lecture, TU Braunschweig 2007 in: <http://www.tu-braunschweig.de/Medien-DB/presse/ringvorlesung-krah.pdf>



# Use of pure and blended biodiesel as a transport fuel

## Use of B100 (100% biodiesel)

Transport companies (trucks, buses, some trains)  
(In Austria due to the tax exemption, biodiesel is cheaper than fossil diesel)

## Use of B7 (7% biodiesel in petrodiesel)

Standard diesel at gas stations in Germany provide up to 7% blended biodiesel. The mixture of fossil diesel and biodiesel has increased continuously.

... and **rearily (!)** for CHP production



## Combined heat and power unit

- Operator: Moreco/Iran
- Investor: Rampco group
- Capacity: 6 MW<sub>el</sub>
- Fuel: biodiesel B100
- Year of implementation: 2012

Source: renac



# Thank you

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