

EBB

European Biodiesel Board

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PRESS RELEASE

New study reinforces existing evidence that science used by the European Commission to calculate indirect land use change is inconclusive



Brussels, June 27th, 2013 – The European Biodiesel Board today welcomes the publication of a study which demonstrates that on the basis of yield improvement estimates by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) factors that are calculated in the models used by the European Commission to justify the proposed EU-wide legislation are inconclusive and can vary considerably depending on assumptions made. The study produced by the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) and titled *The land use changes of European biodiesel: sensitivity to crop yield evolutions* reveals an 80% reduction in the assessed ILUC effect, with a value for biodiesel of 10 gCO₂eq/MJ, compared with 55 gCO₂eq/MJ used by the European Commission for the basis of their legislative proposal.

The study examines how the different models – IFPRI, GTAP-BIO as well as FAPRI and AGLINK- COSIMO factor in the evolution of the increasing yield of cultivated areas in the EU. It concludes that these models use very low values for increasing yields, which contradicts previously observed data trends and are much lower than assumptions used in the production forecasts put forward by international institutions such as the FAO. The study also reveals that ILUC induced by the development of biofuels will have a significant impact on the interaction of economic mechanisms such as food and feed demand, the evolution of agricultural technologies and the value of co-products which are difficult to evaluate.

Welcoming the publication of the report, Raffaello Garofalo, Secretary General of the European Biodiesel Board, noted that "*crop yield evolutions, among other questionable parameters used by the European Commission in models for ILUC assessment, are considerably lower than those observed in other statistics and used in FAO projections. The study however shows that a consistent yield calibration in models leads to simulation results reducing by 80% the ILUC figures for biodiesel (10g CO₂/MJ against 55gCO₂/MJ in IFPRI)*".

As it stands, the current European Commission ILUC proposal risks dramatically changing the policy framework within which the EU biofuels chain operates. Ahead of the vote by the European Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) committee on July 8th, EBB calls on MEPs to reflect on the findings of this study and reject the

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proposals put forward by the ENVI committee's rapporteur MEP Corinne Lepage to incorporate the estimated ILUC factors into the biofuels sustainability criteria. Conventional fuels will be needed beyond 2020 until advanced biofuels are available in sufficient scales and commercially viable. The European Commission should further analyse other ILUC mitigation practices such as the use of co-products, manufacturing efficiencies and production on vulnerable, abandoned or unused land.

Note to editors:

The European Biodiesel Board also known as EBB, is a non-profit organisation established in January 1997. Today, EBB gathers nearly 80 members across 21 Member-States, which represents 75% of the European output. Biodiesel is the main European solution to reduce emissions from transport and dependence on imported oil. EBB aims to promote the use of biodiesel in the European Union and is committed to fulfill the International standards for sustainability in GHG emissions and sustainable feedstock. EBB is constantly working towards the development of improved and greener technologies.

About the study

To view the report please visit: <http://prodinra.inra.fr/ft?id=%7B7858309A-82DB-4D52-9B5C-966887EBDEC3%7D>