

EU – Biodiesel industry rejects land use impact study

Kingsman, 10th October 2011

Europe's biodiesel industry rejected the findings of a draft EU study showing that the cultivation of rapeseed to make road transport fuels is worse for the climate than using conventional diesel, reports Reuters. The European Biodiesel Board (EBB) said on Friday the study's central finding – that the effects of indirect land use to produce most types of biodiesel cancel out any theoretical emissions savings – was "highly debatable and unscientific."

The controversy centers on indirect land use change, a relatively new concept that the rapid expansion of biofuel production in recent years is driving up the overall demand for agricultural land. If that increased demand is met by clearing rainforest or draining peat lands, this can release enough stored carbon into the atmosphere to cancel out any theoretical emissions savings from biofuels.