

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 rise along with increasing pressure on biodiversity. Corbion is dedicated to utilizing feedstocks that respect and support the objectives of the Global Biodiversity Framework, ensuring that our practices contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

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. Moreover, we are continuously exploring new feedstock sources that can enhance our sustainability impact from both environmental and societal perspectives. Our R&D teams explore innovative production processes to support the use of alternative feedstocks for biochemicals and biobased plastics. This includes research into non-food crops, agricultural by-products, and waste streams, as well as other emerging feedstock options that align with our commitment to sustainability.

As part of our commitment to sustainability, Corbion supports the cascading use principle, prioritizing feedstocks that provide the highest economic, societal and environmental added value over their lifecycle to minimize adverse impacts on biodiversity, the environment and the climate. This means we focus on using residues, by-products, and waste streams whenever possible, ensuring efficient resource use and minimizing competition with food and feed. Consequently, it is crucial that feedstocks are produced, processed and used in a sustainable and efficient way. All feedstocks we consider must meet strict sustainability criteria that encompass all aspects of sustainability incorporating broader ecological and social requirements.

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.