

## **Polish and Austrian agricultural ministers support research and development consortium for pure vegetable oil powered tractors**

Pure vegetable oil is still one of the most promising of all renewable fuel sources. Especially in agricultural transport and other agricultural applications, pure vegetable oil could play a key role in future farming strategies. Besides the obviously broad ecological benefits due to carbon-dioxide neutrality, pure vegetable oil offers an enormous economic potential for agricultural farms in the field of energy production. This is especially true in decentralized supply chains or for fuel self supply in farms.

In order to enable farms for substitution of diesel by pure vegetable oil, under the coordination of John Deere, nine partners from industry and agriculture and the Netherlands Standardization Institute<sup>1</sup> recently submitted a highly innovative proposal within the 7<sup>th</sup> EU Framework Programme to the European Commission to leverage experiences from former research and development projects on rapeseed oil powered machinery into future emission regulations. The main focuses are

- the adaptation of exhaust aftertreatment components needed in the EU stage 4 / EURO 6 / US TIER 4 era,
- further precision and definition of fuel standards,
- supply of lubrication solutions
- and the top issue will be long term demonstration of machinery in practical environments

Special support to the consortium is given through letters of intent from the Polish and Austrian agricultural ministers. Both ministers pointed out the huge potential benefits of this biofuel project to contribute to sustainable farming strategies in rural areas.

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