World News

[America]
- **W2 buys out Agri-Green, assumes corporate debt**
In Canada, W2 Energy has completed its purchase of Agri-Green Biodiesel. After signing a Letter of Intent in May 2010 to purchase a 60% interest, the purchase has expanded to 100% in exchange for the assumption of Agri-Green's corporate debt.

- **Production of algae for biofuel increasing**
The Algal Biomass Organization in Preston, Minnesota, USA, conducted an industry survey in January 2012 to assess the present development of technologies and commercial markets for algae to identify opportunities for growth and to make predictions about future growth. Approximately one-third of the respondents who identified themselves as producers of algae fuels, 65% said they plan to expand capacity at new or existing facilities in 2012. Only about 18% responded the company would not accelerate hiring with better federal policy support of the algae industry.

- **Crude glycerin proposed for cattle feed**
James MacDonald, of the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Service in Amerillo, Texas, USA, is investigating the possibility of taking by-product glycerin from the manufacture of biodiesel and incorporating it into livestock feed. Traits making the possibility of glycerin attractive are flowability at low temperatures, and low phosphorus, sulfur, and protein. Macdonald have conducted four experiments over the past two years to determine the feeding value.

[Europe]
- **Evonik aims to double capacity in Asia-Pac by 2015**
In Germany, Evonik Industries announced plans to expand in Asia-Pacific, with a goal of increasing production capacity in Asia-Pacific by nearly 100 percent. The expansion will be fully realized by 2015. The major facility in Asia is currently in Singapore, providing lubricant and biofuel additive products to customers throughout South Korea, Japan, Australia and India.

- **Neste Oil and Lufthansa Airlines satisfied with results of using renewable diesel in flights**
Neste Oil and Lufthansa Airlines announced their satisfaction with results of using renewable diesel in a lengthy trial encompassing a total of 1,187 flights between Frankfurt and Hamburg and a single trans-Atlantic flight between Frankfurt and Washington, DC, USA. No signs of damage or corrosion detected in the aircrafts' fuel tanks, and longer-term storage had no negative impact on fuel quality.

- **Algae-derived biofuel for shipping**
The Maersk Group is currently testing algae-derived biofuel for shipping as it focuses on second-generation alternatives to bunker fuel using agricultural residues or algae rather than palm oil or canola.

[Asia]
- **San Carlos Bioenergy producing ethanol from sweet sorghum**
In the Philippines, San Carlos Bioenergy has produced its first batch of ethanol from sweet sorghum in their San Carlos City plant. According to the professor heading the project, Rex Demafelis, the company was...
able to produce 247 liters of fuel grade ethanol for every ton of sorghum syrup. The manager, Arnel Amparo, said the ethanol currently sells from P41 to P43 per liter, but more calculations must be conducted before the company can establish a profit margin.

**Jatropha on trial in eastern Asia**

JOil Pte. Ltd., a bioenergy crop developer headquartered in Singapore, announced results in March from first-year field trials of its jatropha varietals S1 and S2 in its fields in India. The company indicated that these results, from marginal land plots in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, are a significant advancement compared with wild-type jatropha plants that typically do not flower within the first year. JOil is presently conducting tests in two states of India, West Java and 8 other countries to help evaluate the performance of its elite varieties and identify which ones work best in different environments.

**Qingdao-based company export discarded cooking oil to Netherlands**

Qingdao Fresh Bio-Energy Technology Development Co., Ltd. filled an order in March 2012 for 20 metric tons of oil refined from leftover cooking oil for export to the Netherlands. Qingdao-based company combined waste oil and fat, including discarded cooking oil, pretreated it and then carried out a distillation to clean the product for exportation.

**Evonik doubling production capacity in Asia Pacific Ocean**

Evonik Industries is greatly enhanced lubricant additive business in Asia Pacific Ocean region. Production of lubricating oil additives locate at Jurong Island, Singapore. First as a production base in Asia, it is essential to expand capacity for increase. Enhance the ability of Asia to the Pacific Ocean region by 2015, expected to be approximately twice the current.

**China, increase production of bio-ethanol**

The production of cellulosic ethanol in China has brisked up. Many test facilities have built up and become a key of bio-ethanol production. Especially, the realization of commercial production of cellulosic is seen as one of the points in particular.

**[South America]**

**Using second-generation biofuels for flight**

On March 7, 2012, LAN Airlines Chile and Air BP Copec made the first commercial flight in South America using second-generation biofuels. The fuel, processed by Netherlands-based SkyNRG, came from used cooking oil. At the time of the flight no indication was given when biofuel would be used on a regular basis.

**Brazilian ethanol production continues to stall**

In Brazil, analysts expect gasoline imports from the US and Europe to increase as ethanol production continues to fall. April’s ethanol production fell 40% on the year while mills are expected to prefer sugar to ethanol in the current season, at 48.8% of the crop. That’s the highest ratio to sugar seen in six years.

**Brazil to invest in sugarcane crops for biofuel**

Brazilian sugarcane companies intend to spend US$3.4bn this year renewing aging plantations to boost supply of ethanol. Cane growers are currently using their own funds and may soon be able to access a special government credit line offered to promote plantation renewals.

**[Others]**

**Azerbaijan looking to enter biofuel market**

In Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Energy will be building a complex for electricity generated from biogas, to be completed by 2014. The interest in biotechnology comes foremost from concerns regarding global vulnerability: a deteriorating economy of mineral resources, energy, and geopolitical security of states. While the country is concerned regarding availability of raw materials, but hopes to address the issue with bioengineering to make plants more suitable to resist drought and cold.

**Australian Renewable Energy Fund to announce first investments**

In Australia, the Australian Renewable Energy Fund, a $200 million renewable energy venture capital fund will announce its first two investments by the end of September. Southern Cross Venture Partners, named manager of the fund, plans to invest up to $20m in each of four investments by the end of the year. The fund comes as a part of Australia’s mission to generate 20% of its power from renewable energy sources by 2020.