

BULGARIA: ASTRA BIO PLANT PROJECT

Kyoto Mechanism:	Joint Implementation
Project Category (UNFCCC):	Energy Industries (renewable/non-renewable)
Location:	Slivo Pole, Ruse, Bulgaria
Emission Reductions purchased:	500,000 t CO ₂ -Equivalent



The Project consists in the construction and operation of a biodiesel production plant with an annual production capacity of 60.000 t of biodiesel derived from sunflower and rape crops. The biodiesel production plant is situated in the municipality of Slivo Pole in the region of Ruse, Bulgaria. The production process comprises the extraction of crude oil from oil seeds of sunflower and rape crops supplied by farmers from the adjacent region, the refining of the crude oil and finally its conversion to biodiesel by means of esterification. The implemented technology is state of the art and the produced biodiesel will fulfil the European Standard according to the norm EN 14214.

The produced biodiesel will be distributed via several distribution channels to consumers in the Bulgarian transport sector and will be used either pure or blended with petroleum diesel in different volume units. The substitution of petroleum diesel with biodiesel will reduce greenhouse gases and other local air pollutants. It is expected that the annual average emission reductions generated by the project amount to approx. 136.000 t of CO₂-Equivalent.

The Project investor and operator is the Bulgarian Company Astra Bioplant Ltd.. Astra Bioplant Ltd. is advised by the Viennese consulting company KWI Management Consultants GmbH, Camco International Ltd. seated in London and Vienna and the Energy Consultancy Centre in Ruse with regard to the development of the project as JI project including the monitoring of emission reductions. These consultants have also developed the baseline- and monitoring methodology for this project, thereby considering the entire life-cycle of biodiesel production and consumption in line with the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change's (IPCC) basic principle that only the combustion of biodiesel is considered to be "carbon-neutral".



Construction of the biodiesel plant has started in November 2006 and the plant is expected to be commissioned by mid February 2008. Operation of the plant will create 120 additional jobs. The biodiesel production facility is built by revitalizing a former plant for fruit juice and tinned food and therefore contributes to a recovery of local economy and its further development.

The project follows the track 2 procedure under the supervision of the Joint Implementation Supervisory Board of the UNFCCC. The project has passed final determination subject to the issuance of the Letter of Approval by the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water, which has already issued a Letter of Endorsement for the project in the year 2006.