




Obama calls for increased use of biobased products

On February 21, 2012 the White House released a memorandum signed by US President Barack Obama detailing part of the Administration's plan to increase the use of biobased products including such made from biobased plastics. The announcement makes provisions to increase the number of products designated in the program for Federal procurement by 50% in the next year, as well as increasing federal procurement of certified biobased products. The increased access to the federal procurement market is a major boost to biobased products producers, providing a consistent market for their products. In addition to the Presidential Memorandum, the newspaper USA Today carried a story in their February 21 issue featuring an interview with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. Secretary Vilsack said: „We want to get to the point where we're using everything we grow and everything we raise,“ to reduce dependence on foreign oil and increase rural jobs. The article included a picture of the USDA Certified Biobased label that consumers will see more and more of on their store shelves in the future. The online version also includes a video of the USA Today interview with Secretary Vilsack. [MT](#)

 The full text of the Presidential Memo, The article in USA Today and Secretary Vilsack's announcement can be downloaded from www.bioplasticsmagazine.de/201202

www.biopREFERRED.gov

Ajinomoto and Toray jointly research bio-PA

Ajinomoto Co., Inc. and Toray Industries, Inc. (both Tokyo, Japan) have entered into an agreement to begin joint research for manufacturing the nylon raw material 1,5-pentanediamine (1,5-PD) from the amino acid lysine produced from plant materials by Ajinomoto using fermentation technology, and commercializing a biobased nylon made from this substance.

Biobased nylon is a type of nylon manufactured by polymerizing chemicals produced from plant materials. The biobased nylon that Ajinomoto and Toray will research and develop is produced from plant materials by decarbonating the amino acid lysine through an enzyme reaction to make 1,5-PD, which Toray then polymerizes with dicarboxylic acid. The amino acid lysine is a core product of the Ajinomoto Group produced using fermentation technology. This biobased nylon fiber made from 1,5-PD is not only sustainable because it is plant-based, but also shows promise for development into highly comfortable clothing. For example, nylon 56 fiber manufactured using 1,5-PD is pleasing to the touch, yet has the same strength and heat resistance as conventional nylon 66 fiber made from the petrochemical derivative hexamethylenediamine. It also absorbs and desorbs moisture nearly as well as cotton. [MT](#)

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