



From rapeseed to windpower

a natural by-product of biodiesel to produce epoxy resins that protect the wings of windmills



Natural glycerin is a by-product of the manufacturing of biodiesel from rapeseed. Worldwide, it is expected that a large volume of this by-product will be generated in the next future because of the development of this biofuel.

Natural glycerin is now used as a raw material in the production of epichlorhydrin, a building block of epoxy resins for surface coatings applied to protect the wings of windmills.

The innovative manufacturing process named Epicerol[®] recently developed by Solvay (39 patent applications) has the advantage to use natural glycerin as raw material instead of propylene, an oil derivative.

This new process reduces significantly the environmental impact, in particular by a large reduction of the emission of chlorinated by-products as well as by a sharp decrease in water consumption. This innovation was awarded the French Pierre Potier trophy "Innovation in chemistry benefiting the environment".

A first Epicerol[®] plant is now running in France and another one will startup in Thailand in 2010



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