



Position Statement

AkzoNobel
Tomorrow's Answers Today

The Use of Biobased Raw Materials

Biobased raw materials form an essential part of our sustainability approach as they can contribute to a reduction of our environmental footprint and our reliance on oil.

Like many other positive potential contributors, biobased raw materials have a potential downside, they have been blamed for deforestation (sometimes causing excessive CO₂ emission), reducing biodiversity and rising food prices. At the same time we see that biobased raw materials are an essential part of the road towards a lower environmental footprint.

Advantages of biobased materials are:

- Reduction of CO₂ footprint.
- Reduction of reliance on oil.
- Cost reduction in times of high oil demand.
- Reuse and reduce waste.
- Stimulate wealth and development in poor rural areas

Challenges and dilemmas

AkzoNobel does not support raw materials that cause deforestation, reducing biodiversity or competition with food. Therefore, we participate in, and actively stimulate the development of a binding certification system for agricultural produced raw materials that ensures that the products are grown in a responsible and sustainable manner. Herewith we want to look further than CO₂ footprint and also have to take into account the usage of land, water and fertilizer, as well as the social and commercial aspects associated. AkzoNobel is a member of the [Round Table on Responsible Soy \(RTRS\)](#) and an affiliate member of the [Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil \(RSPO\)](#).

AkzoNobel uses biobased raw materials in the production of paints as well as in the production of chemicals. Wherever possible, we prefer to use plant materials that are not suitable for use in the food chain such as agricultural residues, stems and leaves or non-edible plants that can be grown on pasture land. We believe that in addition to improving first generation industrial processes, second generation development should be accelerated and alternatives sources such as algae should be embraced. AkzoNobel actively stimulates research in this field by participating in the B-basic consortium.

In addition, we are conducting research into the possibility of replacing raw materials based on fossil feed stocks by raw materials based on renewable feed stocks in e.g. Coatings formulations in order to be able to meet future customer needs for "more natural" raw materials as well as to prepare for potential sky rocketing crude oil costs that would make existing products uncompetitive.