

BioPolyMex

Jose Utrilla Carreri

^a *Instituto de Biotecnología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Cuernavaca, Morelos, México*

* utrilla@ibt.unam.mx

Petroleum derived materials have been widely used in the second half of the last century and in the present. To date, packaging materials have been, to a large extent, based on non-renewable materials. The oil based plastics are non biodegradable and the recycled materials have lower qualities and their applications are limited to certain products. In order to solve contamination problems sustainable alternatives must be created. Bioplastic market has been growing due to the needs of biodegradable materials. Biopolymex is a spin-off company from the UNAM campus Morelos which has been created with the aim of maturing bioplastic production technologies. The Biopolymex scientific staff works in the development of two bioplastic technologies: a) Polilactic acid (PLA) and b) polihydroxialcanoates (PHA's). Also, we are working in the development of highly specialized materials for biomedical applications. Our goals are to link scientific knowledge with the plastic industries in order to attend the needs of R&D, the development of new products and processes for biomaterials production.

Our mission is to produce 100% biodegradable, biocompatible, bio-compostable highly specialized bio-plastics. Our technologies are based in the use of non-food renewable feedstock. We aim to satisfy the demand of plastic transforming industries, biomedical and agricultural sectors with high value bio-plastics obtained from biotechnological processes. Our team expertise's are in the development of bio-catalysts and bio-processes for the transformation of renewable feedstock in bio-plastics, also in the transformation of the obtained materials in highly specialized biomedical applications.

The talk will focus on the technologies we are developing and the new business creation.