

BACKGROUND

BIODIESEL PROPERTIES

Biodiesel was introduced to Mercosur[1] members in December 1997. Public-private trials were carried out to demonstrate biodiesel performance in local transportation services, with the support of the following agencies:

- The National Department of Agribusiness, Fishing and Food
- The Buenos Aires Minister of Agrarian Affairs
- The Santa Fe Minister of Agribusiness, Industry & Trade
- National Transport Department
- The Buenos Aires Department of Environment and Urban Planning
- INTA's Rural Economics and Sociology Division

The local private companies involved in biodiesel trials included the following public transportation companies:

- Nuevos Rumbos S.A. and
- San Vicente S.A.

The following local organisations were also involved:

- The Argentine Rural Association (CRA)
- The Argentine Chamber of Edible Oils (CIARA)
- The Public Transportation Chamber & Board (CETAP & CEAP)

The following US organisations were also involved:

- United Soybean Board
- American Soybean Association
- National Biodiesel Foundation

Biodiesel trials were intended to:

1. foster environmentally-friendly fuels to reduce toxic emissions and ensure a healthy standard of living
2. mitigate the impacts of the climatic change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere
3. educate the local people in the use of renewable biofuels
4. maximise the utilisation of local soybean oil

The above biodiesel trials were carried out in the city of Buenos Aires. Import duties and taxes on trial biodiesel were borne by public transportation companies. Furthermore, pure biodiesel was trialled on public transportation fleet, at their sole risk. Biodiesel and vehicle performance and pollution data was gathered under the supervision of the American Soybean Association.

Trial results were coordinated and announced by the above organisations. Furthermore, public relations and advertising campaigns were also supported by CRA and CIARA.

Biodiesel imports were facilitated by CIARA. Pure biodiesel was provided by the United Soybean Board. They also sent a representative to introduce biodiesel to local experts.

Not only did the American Soybean Association coordinate biodiesel trials but it also provided technical assistance and logistics.

The National Biodiesel Foundation helped develop and introduce biodiesel locally while providing logistic support, including quality control & assurance, trial procedures, training, documentation, reporting and technical assistance.

[1] Mercosur: Acronym for the Southern Common Market