



Editorial

Chemistry without Petroleum

The chemical industry can give up petroleum. Within a short or long time, German chemical concerns can become green. Many innovative methods are drawing up the utilization of vegetable materials in order to manufacture from that the basic chemicals. What to do when nature turns the stopcock. When the source of oil ceases to exist and established raw materials for cosmetic synthetic materials, manures, colours go out of industry? About 90% of chemical products are then affected. These consist of carbon which originates mostly from petroleum or natural gas and coal. All these fossil sources are not sustainable or everlasting. Later growing raw materials such as also CO₂ from exhaust gas or from air. Could be here an environment stipulated and before all long range useable alternatives. Neither with vegetation nor with CO₂ there is really any deficiency. And also not results which the researchers achieve in the laboratories of almost all big chemical undertakings as also application oriented knowledge that is generated. So already a manifold of chemical basic materials have been generated biotechnologically from sugar, starch

or wood.

We work on that the portion of production continuously to increase out of vegetation raw materials, emphasizes - Thierry Vanlancker. He is in responsible in the board of directors of Akzonobel for Special Chemistry. There they follow up various initiatives with bio-based materials as for example with wood and maize. So we have come already right far away on the way from oil – opines the chemical engineer. With those platform chemicals from biomass to become economical it requires new process technique. As for example the methods of biotechnology or the metabolic engineering. With that selectively microorganisms or vegetables genetically so reprogrammed that their component change produces the desired product.

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