

Bioplastics and biopolymers – opportunities and challenges for industry and academia



16 July 2009 Hughes Hall College, Cambridge

Discussion:

What is needed to accelerate innovation in renewable biopolymers and bioplastics?



Discussion



- Communication and education to foster a deeper understanding of opportunities and challenges
- Communication with consumers and manufacturers – what are the most effective ways?



Discussion



- Barriers for market penetration and economic growth
 - *Producing material in commercial volumes*
 - *High cost and unsatisfactory performance*
 - *What would help your company to make a switch to bio-based plastics and polymers?*
 - *Need for government incentives, tougher environmental standards*



Discussion



- Market needs for the bio-based polymers sector
 - *What mechanical / manufacturing properties are key to commercialisation?*
- Where immediate scientific efforts should go?
 - *Research towards increasing commercial value*
 - *Breeding new plants to supply alternative materials more available and cost-effective*



Discussion



- What are the immediate opportunities for manufacturing of bio-based polymers, regionally and nationally
 - *Long term contracts for suppliers (farmers) to grow new crops and add value, reliable supply and reproducible specification*
 - *New products as additional streams for adding value before market demand will develop*
 - *Using co-products and waste*



Discussion



- What InCrops and its partners can do to facilitate this process?

Thank you for your comments!

