

Challenges and Industrial perspectives in plant-based chemistry

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The current model for resource provision underpinning most of the chemical industry - prospection/ extraction/processing of fossil resources, is approaching a turning point, and over the next few years will face challenges that are known, unavoidable and connected :

- * the increasing scarcity of fossil raw materials
- * the costs of extraction and processing new deposits
- * the environmental and societal impact of this model

In parallel with these challenges and with the reflections taking place as to the best means of meeting them, are the beginnings of a 'citizens' awareness' regarding these matters. This however remains patchy, varying according to geographical location, according to cultures and patterns of consumption in each country, and finally according to the financial resources and abilities of consumers in less prosperous countries to access modern consumer products.

Thus we face a double challenge :

- * in industrial terms, that of enabling a certain number of players to achieve partial liberation from their dependence on oil, carbon and gas ;
- * in societal, environmental and economic terms , that of demonstrating that alternatives do exist and that their use is possible without the destruction of any forms of equilibrium.

This is the double challenge that the plant chemical sector is designed to meet, moving from 'all-oil' to 'less-oil', offering a sustainable alternative for the development of tomorrow's chemical sector.

Those active in the field of chemicals and agribusiness are now aware of the interest of pooling their skills, expertise and resources in a single structure, in order to give the plant chemical sector every chance to develop. From this vision and this determination, there emerged in January 2008 the 'Association Chimie Du Végétal' (ACDV, or the plant chemical sector association).