



### Thai Bioplastics Industry Association (TBIA)

With strong support from the National Innovation Agency (NIA), the Thai Bioplastics Industry Association (TBIA) was founded on the May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007.

**TBIA Vision:** Thailand to be a regional leader for the commercial application and development of bioplastics, contributing to environmental protection by better waste and GHG emission management.

**TBIA Mission:** TBIA strives to be a regional leader in bioplastics, in which the stakeholders work together in an open and collaborative manner and support the industry through:

- Encouragement of investment in bioplastics industry
- Creation of public awareness on bioplastics
- Development information on markets and technologies as a center of knowledge
- Facilitation of conformity with global standards on bioplastics by testing and certification
- Promotion of networking among members, academic & research bodies and international organizations in bioplastics
- Advocacy with government in policies and strategies supporting bioplastics industry

**A Bioplastics Hub for ASEAN – Thailand's Innovative Opportunity:** Thailand is a major exporter of key agricultural products including cassava, rice, sugar and rubber. It is interesting to note that glucose can be produced at a highly competitive price in Thailand because the raw materials, particularly cassava roots, are in plentiful supply estimated about 27 million tones per year. Potentially this productivity could be still further increased. Additionally, the cost of glucose production from cassava costs could be reduced with the state-of-art enzyme technology in the near future. Low production cost for a basic feedstock creates a major opportunity for Thailand to establish production bioplastics resins using glucose from cassava as raw materials. Furthermore, Thailand has a strong downstream industrial demand to absorb production of biodegradable bioplastic, e.g. plastic bags, food packaging, agricultural films as well as engineering parts for the automotive and electrical industries.

In order to assess Thailand's potential for producing biodegradable plastics from cassava; a feasibility study, initiated by the National Innovation Agency (NIA), was conducted by Stern Stewart and Co. sponsored by Sangan Wongse Industries Co. Ltd, which is a leader in production of modified starch from cassava. This study showed that cassava starch as a feedstock for the Thai bioplastic industry was 30% cheaper than US corn starch. Also, construction and manufacturing costs in Thailand would be 30% cheaper than in more developed countries.

Therefore NIA proposed to establish Thailand as the "Bioplastics Hub for ASEAN", firstly by supporting concerned industry sectors in technology acquisition, technology licensing, joint investment, R&D coordination, market development and human resource development. The first successful step is to support the recent establishment of an industry grouping, the "Thai Bioplastics Industry Association (TBIA)"

### THAI BIOPLASTICS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (TBIA)

#### Foundation

- 2007

#### Members

- 50

#### Branches

- Bio-Business, Energy and Environment

#### Key materials

- Bioplastics

#### Key products/services

- Promotion of bioplastics Innovation in Thailand
- Implementation of Bioplastics Industry

#### Contact

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