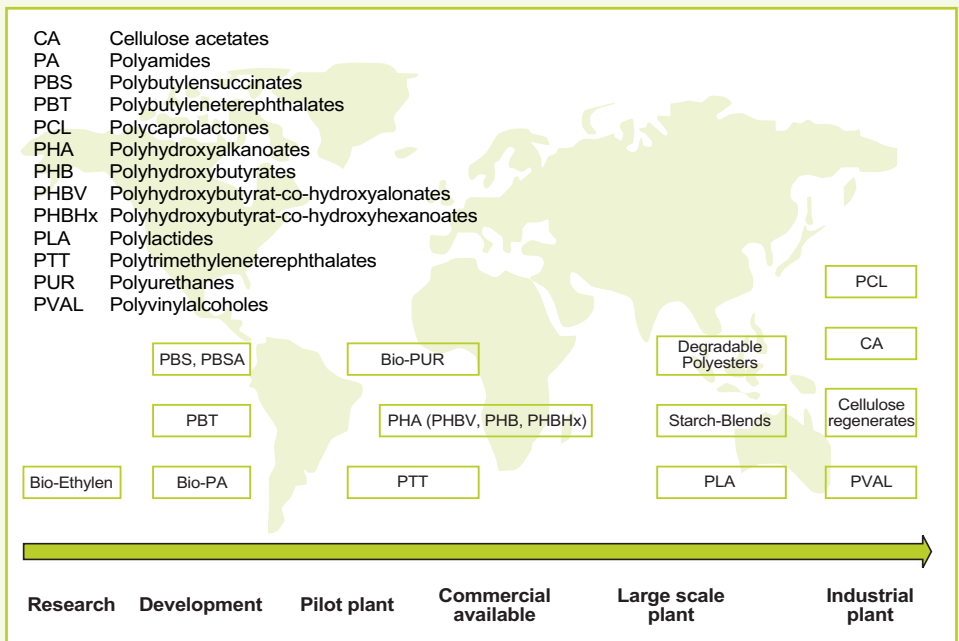


Generation of a new Biopolymer Database

Biopolymers are becoming, especially in the packaging industry, more and more competitive. The remaining economic disadvantages due to (still) limited production capacity can be compensated by rising oil prices and supporting political measures.

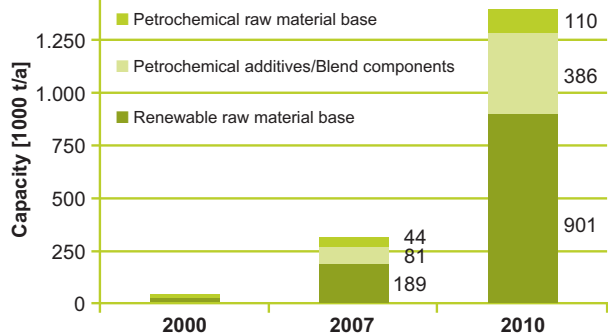
The main problem for biopolymers is the missing and/or at least non-standardised availability of actual material data. In order to improve the situation, the University of Applied Sciences Hanover together with M-

Base Engineering + Software GmbH started 2006 a project to create a **Biopolymer Database** which will contain a full overview of the market. The guideline is the well known CAMPUS® database, which has become the international standard information system for conventional Engineering Polymers. The new Database will allow quick and easy access to information about biopolymer producers, contact person and material properties, like mechanical properties, permeability, degradation or processing behaviour.



Current stage of development (2007) of thermoplastic biopolymers

Manufacturing capacities have grown significantly in recent years due to the rapidly increasing market demand. In August 2007, the worldwide annual capacity for biodegradable polymer materials adds to 315.000 tonnes. Based on statements by different raw material suppliers capacities are expected to reach approximately 1.400.000 tonnes in 2010.



Dynamic progress of manufacturing capacities of thermoplastic biopolymers

Due to an enormous high interest on the part of the manufacturers and the manufacturing industry, an overview on material properties is presented at the Interpack 2008. It will be a free pre-release, including exclusively data provided by biopolymer manufacturers which are present at the market. As already mentioned these data is incomplete and not comparable. **The free pre-release will be discarding under: www.materialdatacenter.com after the Interpack in April 2008.**

The main goals of the following activities will be to collect complete information about available biopolymers, using uniform test standards and to generate comparable and complete material data. The result will be a biopolymer database, which is compatible with the international accepted CAMPUS®

system and will be accessible through the internet.

The project is supported by the Agency of Renewable Resources / Fachagentur Nachhaltigke Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR) by order of the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV).

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