



the dti

Department:  
Trade and Industry  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# BioPlastics Sector

Bioplastics Roundtable Discussion  
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# Overview of current activities

- The DTI has been seeing bioplastics in a broader view of bioeconomy strategy
- More has been done on biohealth than industrial biotech – incentives and Pavilions
- One company came for assistance for biopolymer plant
- DTI also see bioplastics within biorefinery

# Overview of current activities

- More talk on bioethanol and feedstock identification
- DTI believes bioplastics will follow
- Investment Promotion unit has been looking at bioplastics opportunities
- Strong lobby within the industry is needed
- DTI cannot prioritize a quiet industry

# Opportunities for a local bioplastics industry

- Opportunities in the specialised markets like automotive – French company making PP
- Carbon Tax
- The increase of the demand for environmentally friendly product
- Number of jobs within the value chain
- Enhance farming skills
- Polymer price in SA especially PP

# Obstacles to a local bioplastics industry

- The current decrease in oil price
- Availability of quality feedstock
- Cost of manufacturing especially from second generation feedstock
- Price of bioplastics
- Skills needed in the value chain

# Current gaps in knowledge

- Highly skilled bioengineers
- Not enough feedstock knowledge especially characterisation to know quality and yield
- Integration of bioplastics within biorefinery
- More work has been done on hydrolysis and fermentation but few on bioplastics
- Economic and benefit analysis of producing bioplastics

# THANK YOU

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