

## **VEGETABLE OIL CROPS AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE FOR BIODIESEL PRODUCTION IN GREECE.**

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**ABSTRACT:** Recently, due to environment concern there is a considerably growing interest for vegetable oil crops cultivation as potential energy crops for diesel fuel substitutes. Today, biodiesel production and its use is common in certain Member States (France, Austria, Germany), and New Member States (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland), and some manufacturers are already equipping or delivering vehicles adopted for biodiesel usage. Worldwide, vegetable oils are the main raw material used for biodiesel manufacture, with rapeseed, or the variant canola, accounting for 80%, soy for 10% and sunflower seed oil for 10% of biodiesel feedstock.

The aim of this paper is to present the oil crops currently grown in Greece, as potential sources for biodiesel production. These crops are well adapted to the Greek climatic conditions, where they are cultivated, mainly as edible oil, secondly as edible seed and to a minor extent for other uses (such as poultry feed and industry uses).

Results from several research and development activities which have been carried out in Greece, indicate that most of these oil crops could play an important role in the future as potential feedstock for biodiesel production.

**Keywords:** Vegetable oil crops, biodiesel production, biodiesel/potential feedstock.