

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Austrian Agricultural Processor AGRANA Starts Disinfectants Production Based on Bioethanol

Country: Austria

Post: Vienna

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, Agriculture in the News, Biofuels, Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

The shortage of disinfectants, caused by the Covid 19 (“Coronavirus”) crisis, triggered the use of AGRANA’s bioethanol for surface and hand disinfectants. AGRANA is an internationally-oriented important Austrian industrial company which processes agricultural commodities to create food, feed, and intermediate industrial products. AGRANA is not only supplying its bioethanol to the disinfectants producing industry but also started its own production in one of their Austrian fruit juice plants. AGRANA’s bioethanol has only recently been approved for disinfectant use. In the course of the Covid 19 crisis, the Austrian government issued an exemption from the alcohol tax for alcohol (including bioethanol) used in disinfectants.

AGRANA's Bioethanol Approved for Production of Disinfectants

The Covid-19 (“Coronavirus”) crisis triggered a severe shortage of disinfectants world-wide. That is why the Austrian agricultural processor AGRANA decided to use its own bioethanol production to produce disinfectants. AGRANA is an internationally-oriented important Austrian industrial company which processes agricultural commodities to create food, feed, and intermediate industrial products. The company runs four fruit processing plants in the USA. The bioethanol produced at AGRANA's bioethanol plant in Pischelsdorf/Lower Austria has only recently been approved for use in the production of disinfectants. In addition to supplying its bioethanol to the disinfectant producing sector, AGRANA has also started the production of surface and hand disinfectants itself. This production takes place at the AGRANA “Austria Juice” plant in Kröllendorf/Lower Austria. This particular fruit juice concentrate plant quickly set up a line on which the disinfectant is being processed and filled into 25-liter cases. Austria Juice can produce up to 40,000 liters of disinfectant per week.

Alcohol for Disinfectants exempted from Austrian Alcohol Tax

In order to ease the tight disinfectant situation, the Austrian government exempted alcohol (including bioethanol) used for disinfectants from the Austrian alcohol tax, which normally would be € 1,200 (USD 1,304) per 100 liters pure alcohol. This exemption was approved in the third Covid-19 legislation package from April 4, 2020. Disinfectant producers who use alcohol/ethanol for their production may apply for alcohol tax refund until August 31, 2020.

Disinfectant Donations to Care and Social Organizations

AGRANA announced they would donate some of their own produced disinfectants to care and social organizations in the vicinity of its Austrian plants.

Bioethanol Production in Austria

There is only one bioethanol plant in Austria (Pischelsdorf/Lower Austria) owned by the Austrian agricultural processing industry group, AGRANA. This plant processes around 600,000 metric tons of grains (mainly wheat and corn) resulting in about 250,000 cubic meters of bioethanol. Normally the bioethanol is only used for blending of gasoline as fuel in the transport sector. Austria is producing more bioethanol than it uses in the transport sector. Current low crude oil prices and less fuels consumption through the Covid-19 crises are expected to have a negative impact on the bioethanol as well as the feedstock for bioethanol production demand (particularly corn). The alternate use of bioethanol in disinfectants could ease the pressured bioethanol and corn market.

AGRANA Company Background

AGRANA is an internationally-oriented important Austrian industrial company, which processes agricultural commodities to create food, feed and intermediate industrial products for downstream industries. Around 9,600 employees at 57 production sites worldwide generate annual revenue of approximately € 2.4 billion (USD 2.6 billion). Established in 1988, the company is the world's market leader in fruit preparations and the leading producer of fruit juice concentrates in Europe. In addition, its starch segment is also a major manufacturer of starch products and bioethanol. AGRANA is also the leading sugar producer in Central and Eastern Europe. The company runs four fruit processing plants in the United States.

Attachments:

No Attachments.