

biofuels

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All eyes on Africa

**Uganda presses ahead with
new biofuels law**

Sunflower power

**Hawaii firm makes
oils from crops**



Photo credit: © Zane Mathias

Say 'aloha' to sunflower-based biofuels project

Pacific Biodiesel: Hawaii's largest farm-to-fuel innovator

Pacific Biodiesel Technologies (PBT) celebrated the four-month anniversary of its first Maui biofuel crop project in June. In February, PBT founders Bob and Kelly King were joined by invited guests, including US Senator Mazie Hirono, US Representative Tulsi Gabbard, state and county lawmakers, local farmers and other community stakeholders, for a traditional Hawaiian blessing of the company's demonstration sunflower field that is to date Hawaii's largest biofuel crop project. This newest farming project expands diversified agriculture by growing combine-harvested oilseed crops on land previously used

for sugarcane production. Showcasing the company's sustainable, community-based model of agriculture

'We're designing a sustainable, zero-waste and economically viable system to grow food, animal feed and fuel'

and renewable energy, PBT planted sunflowers as its first Maui biofuel crop, applying the knowledge learned from its past experience and partnership with the US military which funded the Hawaii Military Biofuels

Crop Programme (HMBC). The first phase of HMBC demonstrated the planting, growing and processing

of biodiesel feedstocks on Oahu and Hawaii Island. "We're designing a sustainable, zero-waste and economically viable system to grow food, animal feed and fuel," says PBT president, Bob King. Crops that harvest in 100

days or less can be cultivated, crushed, and converted to biodiesel all in Hawaii."

He adds that there will be different crops in various rotations, with all farm equipment running on 100% biodiesel.

Speaking about the company's sustainable farming practices, King says: "We have carefully chosen our non-GMO crops to be mindful of the inputs. We're also actively researching and using alternatives to chemical fertiliser and pesticides. So far, we haven't used irrigation but have installed it as a back-up for the drier months. We have no plans to use chemical herbicides

or pesticides, and we don't plan to ever use them."

Kelly King, VP and co-founder of PBT, refers to the sunflowers as "an eye-catching symbol of sustainability, and acres of energy storage and carbon sequestration." Recently inaugurated as a new member of the Maui County Council, she notes that there are 36,000 acres of former sugarcane lands on Maui that ceased production last year.

She adds: "It's important for the community and the state to keep this land in agriculture to benefit Maui's economy and environment, to help increase our energy security, reduce fossil fuel imports and achieve the state's 100% renewable energy mandate."

The company is committed to continuing its collaboration with local farmers and landowners. "We are looking forward to collaborating even more with our agriculture community," Kelly King adds. "Our growth and success has always been rooted in partnerships and innovation."

Based on past experience, the sunflower crop yield is expected to total 100-plus gallons of oil per acre per harvest, with a potential of up to three harvests per year. The first bloom of the February 14-acre planting engendered weeks of community attention and huge support island-wide, dominating local social media. In April, PBT hosted an Earth Day 2017 community event, providing free access for the public to visit the farm to celebrate the inaugural bloom. The event also commemorated the company's one-year anniversary of becoming the world's first biodiesel producer to be certified by the Sustainable Biodiesel Alliance

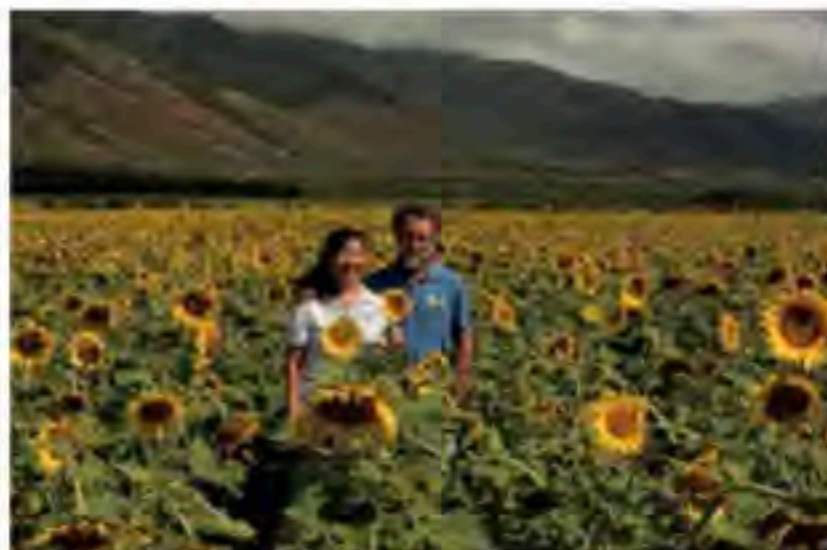


Photo credit: © Zane Maurhus

Bob and Kelly King, founders of Pacific Biodiesel, stand among acres of blooming sunflowers in their company's biofuel crop located in Maui's central valley. This initial crop project on 115 acres will expand diversified agriculture by growing combine-harvested oil crops on land previously used for sugar cane production. This is the largest biofuel crop project in the state of Hawaii and the only biofuel farming operation in the state running on 100% renewable fuel, showcasing the company's sustainable, community-based model of agriculture and renewable energy.

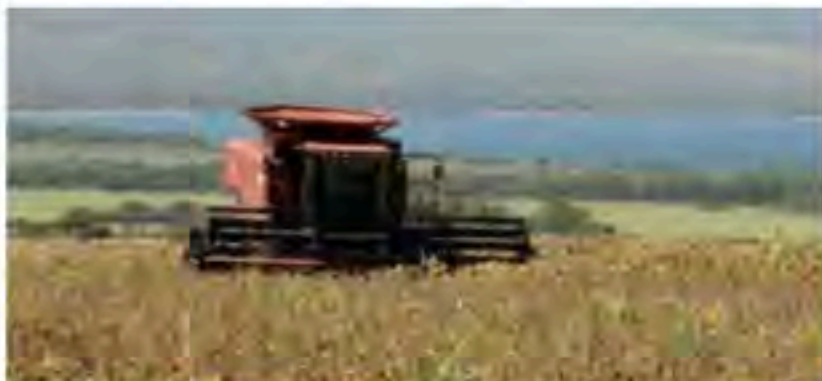


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for excellent production and distribution practices.

PBT purchased a combine from a family farm in Northern California that is now used to mechanically harvest the sunflowers and other oilseed crops. "With this equipment, we'll be able to harvest a variety of food and fuel crops that we're planning to grow in the future, including safflower, canola and maybe even chickpeas in addition to the sunflowers," says Bob King. "The food component is important as our governor has declared a state goal of doubling local food production by the year 2020."

Pacific Biodiesel has already received strong interest in its sunflower oil for cosmetic use and as a food-grade vegetable cooking oil for use by local restaurants. ●

For more information:

This article was written by Kim Sloan, public relations associate at Pacific Biodiesel. Visit: www.biodiesel.com

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About Pacific Biodiesel

Founded on Maui in 1995, Pacific Biodiesel is the nation's longest operating and most experienced biodiesel producer, and established the first retail biodiesel pump in America. Today with nearly 80 employees statewide,

the company is the only commercial biofuel producer in Hawaii. Throughout its history, Pacific Biodiesel's mission has remained constant: to promote a clean, sustainable energy future through the community-based production of

renewable fuels. With a nameplate production capacity of 5.5 million gallons annually, Pacific Biodiesel's Big Island refinery utilizes state-of-the-art distillation technology to produce the nation's highest quality biodiesel.