

# *Cuba Tests New Biodiesel Fuels to Reduce Oil Import Dependence*

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Havana, November 28 (RHC-Xinhua) -- Experts are trying new biodiesel fuels for motors, Pedro Rodriguez, doctor in science from Cuban Polytechnic University Jose Antonio Echeverria (CUJAE), said here on Thursday.

Rodriguez said he and his colleagues have been undertaking researches with different types of biomass, in order to extract oil and use it mixed with other fuels.

The target is to improve the energetic matrix of the Caribbean island through sustainable and environment-friendly fuels, Rodriguez was quoted by Prensa Latina news agency.

Rodriguez participated in the 17th Scientific Convention on Engineering and Architecture, to conclude on Friday at the Havana's Convention Palace. Over 1,440 investigations from Cuban and foreign experts presenting, the convention mainly addressed to the issues of energy, environment, new technologies, biotechnologies and food, among other topics.

Cuba produces about 4 million tons of oils with its accompanying gas in a year, but that figure covers only 50 percent of the island's domestic needs and the rest is imported.

The government is promoting strategies to reduce its dependence from oil imports while developing natural energy sources more favourable to nature and atmosphere.

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