

Greening Ghee and Cooking Oil Industry in Pakistan
Dr. Imdaad Hussain

Abstract

Despite importing 70% of cooking oil worth US\$ 4 billion from Malaysia, Pakistan faces tremendous challenges in the way of greening the ghee and cooking oil industry. The 160 registered ghee/oil factories in Pakistan produce a little more than 3.6 million tons of ghee/oil per year with an annual growth rate of 5%, which is higher than global average growth of oil industries. Estimates of the informal ghee/oil production and its environmental impact are difficult to document and quantify in the country. Growing oil extracting crops, manufacturing oil, overconsumption of ghee and cooking oil, absence of recycling oil waste pose major barriers in the way of greening cooking oil industry. An effort to green ghee/oil industry in Pakistan requires reducing land footprint and water footprint for growing oil crops, installation of water treatment plants in ghee/oil factories, and reuse and recycling of water oil into biodiesel. A rigorous implementation of the Pakistan Standard Specification for Cooking Oil, 2002 and guidelines of provincial food authorities can substantially reduce the carbon emissions in the manufacturing of ghee/oil in Pakistan. A reduction of ghee/oil demand along with awareness among consumers can play a role in pressuring the industry to adopt green practices.