

### Do bioplastics play a role in the rising prices for agricultural products and food ?

The current media debate is frequently emotional and not much factual information is provided to promote the discussion on the use of food crops in non-food applications.

At a conference on May 6, EU Agriculture Commissioner Marianne Fischer-Boel has responded to the debate and rejected allegations that EU policies to promote biofuels are to blame for rising food prices ([www.euractiv.com/en/sustainability/biofuels](http://www.euractiv.com/en/sustainability/biofuels)). She provided arguments that are also valid for bioplastics: "Those who see biofuels as the driving force behind recent food price increases have overlooked not just one elephant standing right in front of them, but two," she said. According to Fischer-Boel, the rising food demand and dietary shift towards meat in emerging countries like China and India, together with the bad weather that hit the EU, US, Ca

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Australia

in 2006 and 2007, have each had "an enormous impact on commodity markets". Other "influences" include increasing speculation on food commodities, she said.