



Australia Aims to Turn Sugar Into Plastics, Drugs

SYDNEY - Australia has established a new sugar research body that will study using sugar for biodegradable plastics, medical drugs and biofuels, the Queensland state government said this week.

The new body, the Co-operative Research Center for Sugar Industry Innovation through Biotechnology, would bring together leading research groups in sugarcane molecular biology and chemical engineering, the government said.

Scientists from the new body would partner with organizations such as sugar producer CSR Ltd and U.S.-based DuPont Co, one of the world's major agricultural biotechnology companies.

The Queensland government has committed A\$3.5 million to support the center over the next seven years on top of at least A\$45 million committed by the federal government and industry bodies.

Australia is one of the top raw sugar exporters in the world.

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