

CHUDASAMA, ARVIND, Informa Agra, Telephone House, 69-77 Paul Street, London EC2A 4LQ, UK. **Biobased products: Opportunities and challenges in the sugar industry.**

Advances in bio-process conversion technologies presages a new dawn for the competitiveness of the sugar industry. This is largely because sugar is a superb feedstock for the production of range of products that are currently produced from non-renewable feedstocks. Compared with the biofuels sector, the biobased products sector in the biorenewables field is the neglected step-child. It has received significantly less government support both in terms of subsidies and incentives than the biofuels sector. This is perhaps because the biobased sector consists of collection of niche markets for the range of products and biochemicals that are synthesised. The market for chemicals in 2012 is forecast at over \$2 trillion for which the biochemicals share is projected to be 7.7%. Significant opportunities for expanding the market share clearly exists, but to realise this, policies have to be in place to incentivise the sector backed by access to finance. This presentation discusses these issues.