NOMURA JIMUSHO, INC.

July 15, 2026

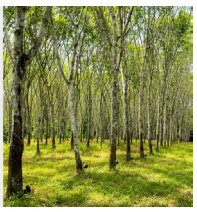
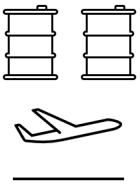
Our Feasibility Study on Rubber Seed Oil as Feedstock for SAF was selected for NEDO's funding under a public call

We are pleased to announce that our ***"Feasibility Study on Rubber Seed Oil as Feedstock for SAF"*** has been selected for funding under a public call by the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) [*1)]. The project has been adopted under NEDO's program: "Development of Technologies for Stable and Efficient Production of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), etc. / Diversification of SAF Feedstock (Subsidized Project)"
(Selection date: July 14, 2025, Grant decision date: December 19, 2025)

[*1)] 「持続可能な航空燃料（SAF）等の安定的・効率的な生産技術開発事業」に係る実施体制の決定について ｜ 公募 ｜NEDO

The para rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) is widely cultivated in managed plantations across tropical regions, particularly in Southeast Asia, as a source of natural rubber (latex). However, its seeds are non-edible and currently unused and discarded as waste. Thailand is one of the world's leading producing countries of natural rubber, and we have identified rubber seed oil (RSO) as a promising non-edible feedstock for SAF production via the HEFA pathway [*2)] [*3)] [*4)] [*5)].

Process Concept: From Rubber Plantation to SAF

Rubber plantations		Rubber Seed		Rubber Seed Oil (RSO)		SAF
	➡ Seed collection	Shell size: 15–20 mm. Oil is contained in the kernel inside the shell.	➡ Oil extraction and refining		⇢ Production of SAF with HEFA pathway [*3)*4)]	

Project Overview

Program	Development of Technologies for Stable and Efficient Production of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), etc.
R&D Theme	Diversification of SAF Feedstock (Subsidized Project)
Project Title	Feasibility Study on Rubber Seed Oil (RSO) for SAF Feedstock
Project Period	FY2025 – FY2026
Proponent	Nomura Jimusho, Inc.
Key Study Items	1. Assessment of rubber seed availability in Thailand and other Asian countries 2. Investigation of efficient harvesting of seeds, oil extraction and refining technologies of crude RSO 3. Feasibility and supply chain analysis for commercial RSO production 4. Test production of SAF and evaluation for ASTM compliance *4) *5) 5. Lifecycle analysis of the process from seed harvesting to use of SAF, and data collection to meet the sustainability criteria for CORSIA*6)-eligible fuel Some of the study items will be carried out with cooperation of JGC Corporation.

Our Previous Initiatives

*2) In March 2024, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Rubber Authority of Thailand (RAOT) on rubber seed procurement as a new joint research project in Thailand's rubber industry. 20240605111812677 2.pdf

*3) In June 2025, we also signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with RAOT regarding the procurement of rubber seeds. 20250916164934955 4.pdf

We have also established a laboratory within the RAOT Chachoengsao Research Center to study seed collection, harvesting, storage, and oil extraction methods.

Notes

*4) **ASTM D7566**: An international standard for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) established by ASTM International; Annexes A1 through A8 of D7566 specify the feedstocks and production pathways. We aim to confirm the feasibility of meeting the requirements of Annex A2 (HEFA process *5)) for SAF production using RSO.

[*5)] **HEFA Pathway**: Stands for Hydroprocessed Esters and Fatty Acids. It is a process that produces SAF blending components as specified in ASTM D7566 Annex A2, by hydroprocessing feedstocks such as waste cooking oils, animal fats, and vegetable oil and esters. SAF produced using this pathway is approved for use in commercial aircraft when blended with conventional petroleum-based jet fuel at a ratio of up to 50%.
[*6)] **CORSIA**: Stands for Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation; a scheme for carbon offsetting and emissions reduction in international air transport led by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). For SAF usage, rigorous assessments are conducted on lifecycle greenhouse gas reduction and compliance with sustainability criteria spanning from feedstock production (rubber seed cultivation) to fuel consumption.

For inquiries on this press release, please visit: Contact | NOMURA JIMUSHO, INC.