



# Market Insights: Polylactic Acid - 2019

**Market Insights: Polylactic Acid - 2019** is one in a series of reports published as part of Nexant's Markets & Profitability program.

Nexant's upcoming Market Insights report provides a comprehensive review of global polylactic acid (PLA) market and includes:

- Discussion regarding key market drivers and constraints for each region
- Supply, demand trade for nine regions: North America, South America, Western Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific, and China
- End-use analysis includes: packaging, agriculture, electronics, fibers, medical and 'others'
- Forecast period: 5 years history and 5 years forecast
- Competitiveness analysis, including competitive landscape, who's who of suppliers and cost competitiveness
- Pricing snapshot with commentary regarding latest trends

Along with the written report, data is provided in Excel including global capacity listings.

*Published: February 2019*

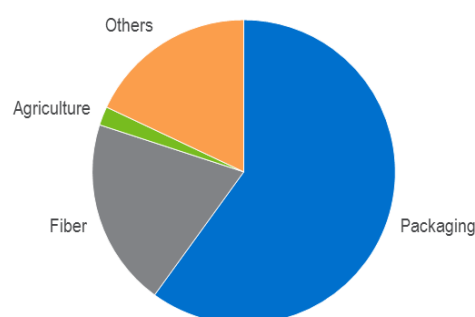
## Report Abstract:

Polylactic acid (PLA) is an aliphatic polyester with no aromatic ring structure. It is regarded as an environmentally friendly polymer as it is derived from renewable sources and has grades which meet the specification for biodegradability.

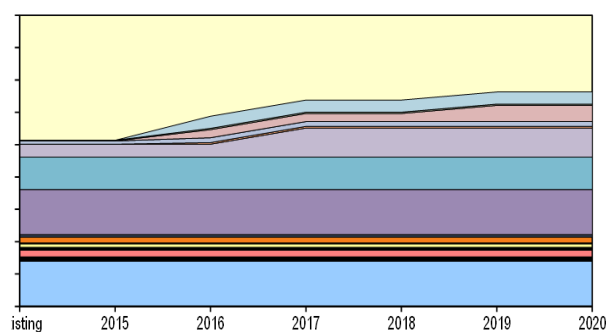
PLA can be produced in various forms and its physical properties, can be fine-tuned depending on the percentage of L-lactide and D-lactide based PLA in its formulation. Together, with its versatility in downstream processability, PLA's properties make it applicable to a wide range of products and industries.

Due to increasing consumer awareness of global warming and environmental friendly and nontoxic chemicals, PLA is gaining popularity in replacing petroleum-based polymers like polypropylene, polystyrene etc. for packaging applications such as coffee cups, food trays, containers, and bottles. It offers short-lifespan packaging application compared to non-bio polymers. Consumers are becoming more demanding for disposable food packaging due to the changing consumer behavior in takeout trends. This in turn enhances demand for not only PLA but also other materials.

**PLA Demand by End-Use, 2018**



**PLA Capacity Development**



The PLA market will achieve strong growth largely due to increased usage in packaging for a wide range of industries and fiber demand.

Global production capacity is approaching 250,000 tons per year, with key production centers in the United States and Thailand. The United States is the leading exporter globally.

The major players in the global PLA market are NatureWorks and Total Corbion and a comparatively large number of companies active in China.

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A. Global Capacity Listings

Each region section in Chapter 3 includes:

- Market Overview
- Market Drivers
- Market Constraints
- Competitive Landscape
- Supply and Demand
- Imports and Exports
- Pricing Analysis and Trends

For additional analysis on polylactic acid (PLA), please refer to:

- **Biorenewable Insights: Lactic Acid and PLA**
- **TECH: Lactic Acid/Polylactic Acid**

## Report License Details:

Access to **Market Insights: Polylactic Acid - 2019** is via a report license agreement and includes:

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- Consultation time with the project team

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Markets and Profitability tracks over 60 feedstocks, petrochemicals, polymers, chemical intermediates and fertilizers on an ongoing basis and provides regularly updated reports covering all commercial aspects of these global industries. The accompanying database, provides global analysis and forecasts in two major inter-related areas: **Markets and Profitability**.

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