

Intermediate Crops

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Biofuel Feedstock Landscape

- Concerns rising regarding used cooking oil containing high impact/high risk feedstocks like palm
- Scalability - need to grow additional feedstock that meets or exceeds GHG and carbon reduction goals
- Preventing unintended impacts including:
 - Land Use Change
 - Food Insecurity

About Intermediate Crops

Intermediate crops are grown between main crop cycles on farmland that would otherwise be fallow or idle and harvested to produce ultra-low carbon feedstock for renewable fuels and other value-added products.

- Intermediate crops provide the environmental benefits of cover crops, including:
 - Carbon capture
 - Limit nutrient runoff
 - Erosion prevention
 - Improving soil fertility
 - Increasing soil organic matter
- Intermediate crops provide farmers with an important source of additional revenue, providing development opportunities to rural communities.
- Intermediate crops do not disrupt existing crop rotations or land use.
- Oil from intermediate crops can be used independently as feedstock or blended with other feedstocks to lower carbon intensity scores of finished fuels.
 - Intermediate Crops have lower CI scores than traditional crop feedstocks, as supported by publications from Argonne National Labs and others.

The Intermediate Oilseed Crop Alliance



The Intermediate Oilseed Crop Alliance (IOCA), comprised of the leading innovators in the intermediate crop industry, has created an industry-wide intermediate crop definition to differentiate these crops from crops that fulfill similar but separate functions, including cover crops and other biofuel feedstocks.

Intermediate Crop Definition - U.S.

Intermediate Crop - *an oilseed crop of renewable biomass, such as camelina, carinata, and domesticated pennycress, or any other crop designated by the Secretary, that otherwise meets the definition of a cover crop and is planted and harvested on land that would otherwise be idle in a rotation pattern between main crops or in a fallow rotation and is primarily intended to provide climate-smart, low carbon feedstocks for the production of renewable biofuels and chemicals.*

- This definition of “Intermediate Crop” has been accepted by USDA and will be used within the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Conservation Standards Practice (CSP) Code 328 guidance.

A foundational definition supports policy and program needs

- Opportunity for Administrations to provide leadership in defining space
- Unifying terminology across geographies
- Helping to spread awareness of the benefits of these crops including:
 - Enhancing domestic energy security
 - Promoting on-farm sustainability,
 - Generating additive revenues for growers.
- Allows for creation of policy directives to ***incentivize and support*** the development of this burgeoning feedstock sector

Thank you!

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Intermediate Crop Definition - EU

“Intermediate crops, such as catch crops and cover crops that are grown in areas where due to a short vegetation period the production of food and feed crops is limited to one harvest and provided their use does not trigger demand for additional land and provided the soil organic matter content is maintained.”

- Intermediate crops are incentivized in RED II Annex IX A and B
 - A for use in SAF, B for use in other fuel applications.