

Wednesday  
14th July  
2021

# Copra oil

## Ouvea's biofuel in New Caledonia

CHOOSE  
NEW CALEDONIA

On Ouvea Island in the Loyalty Islands Province, an organic fuel has been produced since 2004: copra oil.

Production of copra oil began in 1991 on the island of Ouvea in New Caledonia. Thirteen years later, the culture has developed and the managers of the Agricultural and Aquaculture Cooperative of Ouvea producers entered into a partnership with ENERCAL which has a plant on the island. One of the five groups of the plant can now operate entirely on oil from copra.



### From coconut to electric power

Copra production in numbers: **3,000 hectares of coconut plantation**, 275 tonnes of dry copra (2017) and 204,567 liters of oil (2017) per year.

There are around **170 copra producers** for 56 copra ovens in Ouvea. The yield of the ENERCAL unit running on oil amounts to 300 kVA for a power output of 240 kW.

### The treasure of Ouvea Island

The island of Ouvea can gradually move towards **energy autonomy** by increasing the share of renewable energies in the **electricity network of its municipality**. Currently, 8% of the municipality's electricity needs are covered by coconut oil. But this percentage **can be increased to 35% in the coming years**. Copra is a central player in the development of the island. Its cultivation allows the "better living" of the inhabitants, the land and enhances the agricultural potential of the town. Since the launch of oil production, copra production has **boosted the coconut palm industry** and life in Ouvea.



### The Loyalty Islands Province focuses on sustainable development

Lifou, for instance, is **entirely supplied with electricity by wind power, photovoltaics or heat engines running on recycled edible oil and copra**. Lifou, Maré and Ouvéa are also solicited by the **private sector** for the installation of photovoltaic farms on their land.



In fact, the government of New Caledonia last month authorized the operation of **two photovoltaic power plants at Ouvéa**, the first of such size and with a total capacity of 1.5 MWp. They meet the **objectives of the multi-year investment program** concerning the share of renewable energy in archipelago islands, 30% at the end of 2020 and 60% at the end of 2025.

Christopher Gygès, member of the government in charge of the energy sector said "There is a real interest in supporting the development of renewable energies throughout the country. And more so on the Loyalty Islands where gasoline still has to be transported on barges, which represents both an environmental risk and a financial constraint".