# Sustainable Mobility: Learnings from Brazil



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### The story starts in the 1970s





Sources: EPE; ANFAVEA

# Flex fuel vehicles enable E100

### 1975-1990:

Direct subsidies to ethanol producers (price fixing) and to ethanol vehicle manufacturers

### Currently:

No direct subsidies

Tax differentiation applied for Federal and State taxes (usually lower tax rates for ethanol)

Recently, on top of tax differentiation: a carbon market for the emissions reductions from biofuels (RenovaBio)



Source: EPE

# A carbon price signal for biofuel producers

In 2020, Brazil implemented a carbon credit scheme for the emissions reductions from biofuels in transport: **RenovaBio** 

Credits are awarded in line with the carbon intensity of each biofuel producer – assessed on an individual basis (LCA)

#### RenovaBio credit prices

(USD/tons of CO<sub>2</sub>eq)



2022/23 prices: 20 to 30 USD/tCO $_2$  can support the adoption of new technologies

Targets for RenovaBio credits

(million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>eq)



Growing targets require: production expansion, more certification, carbon intensity improvements

### Sugarcane products include ethanol





38% of light vehicles energy demand

#### 42 Mton of sugar

- 23% of global production (179 Mton)
- Top global producer
- 1<sup>st</sup> net exporter
  - 32 Mton (76% of national production)

### 39 TWh of power generation

- 6.3% of national supply (626 TWh)
- 16 TWh (41%) for self-consumption

### + Ethanol growth from **COrn**

- 4 Mm<sup>3</sup> of ethanol in 2022
- Double-cropping system: 75% of corn is produced in the same area as soybeans
- Less than 10% of Brazilian corn is processed for ethanol, while over 40% is exported

Sources: MapBiomas (2021); EPE (2023); CONAB (2021); USDA (2021)

9.5 Mha

of land with

(851 Mha)

# Investing in new low-carbon solutions

#### Carbon intensity (CI) today

 $(gCO_2/MJ)$ 



#### Ethanol's supply chain emissions linked to:

- Fertiliser production and application
  - Future low-carbon (or biomass-based) hydrogen production
- Diesel use in machinery and transport



#### Technologies for a lower CI ethanol



#### Biogas/Biomethane from residues

- Mature technology, diverse business models
  - CHP: 1 plant of 20 MWe
  - Gas grid injection, dedicated pipeline
  - Replacing diesel in trucks and machinery



#### Second-generation ethanol

- Raizen Co. holds technological expertise
- 1 plant in operation, 4 under construction
  - >300,000 m³/year expected output



#### Biogenic carbon capture (BECCS)

- High CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (>98%)
- ~ 25 MtCO<sub>2</sub> per year

# H<sub>2</sub>

#### Hydrogen

- Different routes: electrolysis, biogas, ethanol
- Combination with CO<sub>2</sub> for synthetic fuels

### Rethinking existing bioenergy systems to deliver hydrogen and negative emissions (with BECCS)



# Rethinking the portfolio towards H<sub>2</sub> w/ BECCS



### Shell, Raizen, Hytron, Senai, USP: Partnership to Convert Ethanol Into Renewable Hydrogen



### Four steps:

- 1. Sugarcane processing in the biorefinery produces ethanol
- 2. Ethanol is transported to the fuel station at USP and stored
- 3. Ethanol steam reforming produces hydrogen
  - 2 pilot plants of 5 kg/h H<sub>2</sub>
  - ca. 38.5 L ethanol/h each
  - To be scaled-up (10 x)
- 4. Hydrogen is compressed and stored, ready for refuelling
  - Potential to supply 4 campus buses

Investment: USD 10 MM (Shell through RD&I funding) Launch on August 10, 2023 Start-up on 2nd semester 2024

# **Ethanol production: future**

# Future of 2G ethanol in Brazil

from sugarcane bagasse and straw

- In operation 35,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr (Costa Pinto Mill)
- Under construction 300,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr in four new 2G plants (75,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr each)
- Ethanol 1G + 2G = increase of 28% ethanol production per hectare (8,415 L/ha)

### **Expectation: biofuels for SAF**

Total ethanol supply projection Official source (EPE), 2023-2032 million m<sup>3</sup> per year epe 50 47 46 45 42 39 40 36 7.9 35 7,3 35 30 25 20 33,1 32.2 15 29.0 10 5 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2G Sugarcane Corn -O-Total ethanol Imports 1G

Sources: EPE; Raízen (reproduced with permission)

Bilhões de litros

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# Biogas and 2G ethanol: kicking off

#### Raízen Inaugurates Biogas Plant and Strengthens its Renewable Energy Portfolio

With an installed capacity of 21 MW, the new unit in the interior of São Paulo will produce electric energy using vinasse and filter cake, sugarcane by-products



Cocal + GasBrasiliano (utility)
 1<sup>st</sup> city in the world with a dedicated biomethane gas distribution system
 Pipeline length: 68 km (52 km steel, 16 km HDPE)
 118,000 m³/day (potential)
 Investment:

 30 M\$ from GasBrasiliano (10 km HDPE)
 130 M\$ from Cocal

#### Raizen announces plans for 2 new cellulosic ethanol projects

By Erin Voegele | May 12, 2022

Gas distributors to help expand Brazil biogas supply

#### Brazil's Raizen makes massive bet on 2G ethanol and biogas

30 May 2022 | Reese Ewing

# Last but not least... Sustainability issues

# Ethanol in Brazil: social/economic sustainability



Social Value Creation; IRENA, 2022

RESEARCH CENTRE FOR GREENHOUSE GAS INNOVATION - UNIVERSITY OF SÃO PAULO

# Ethanol in Brazil: environmental sustainability





#### Water use for sugarcane

- No freshwater use in irrigation
- Vinasse fertigation subject to environmental regulations
- Industrial water consumption: from 5 m<sup>3</sup>/t to <1 m<sup>3</sup>/t in 20 years

# Ethanol in Brazil: environmental sustainability

Areas cultivated with sugarcane in Brazil contributed to remove 9.8 MtCO<sub>2</sub>/yr in the last 20 years

- Expansion mainly over poor quality pastures and other agricultural land uses
- Move to mechanised harvesting with significant residues left in the field
- Reduced expansion over natural vegetation (only 1.6%)

Considering all land use changes within sugarcane-producing rural properties, net removal is even larger: 17  $MtCO_2/yr$ , due to vegetation recovery

#### Sustainability recognition:

- Sugarcane-based Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) has a low carbon footprint
- August 2023: Brazil's largest ethanol producer was awarded the ISCC CORSIA Plus Certification for ethanol use in SAF production





Sources: Guarenghi et al. (2023); Prussi et al (2021); CORSIA

### Well-to-wheel (WtW)

# GHG Emissions by powertrain-fuel combination, 2017 & 2030 in $gCO_2/km$



Ethanol used in efficient vehicles (hybrid or fuel cell)

is as low-carbon as a BEV in a 100% renewable system

+ avoids large batteries reducing vehicle production emissions and avoiding investment in new charging infrastructure

#### IDATAGRO 🕊

Source: AEA (2017) Brazilian Association of Automotive Engineering

### Toyota flex hybrid vehicles in Brazil

Flex hybrid cars: the forefront of the Brazilian electrified segment

In 2019, Toyota launched the Corolla sedan, the 1st hybrid flex model in the world, manufactured exclusively in Brazil

2023: Toyota announces investments of BRL 1.63 billion (USD 0.33 billion) in the development of a new compact hybrid flex vehicle

Additional investment of BRL 61.8 million (USD 12.3 million) in updating other models

By 2025, Toyota plans to launch a hybrid version of every model in the fleet





Toyota Corolla – flex hybrid https://revistaautoesporte.globo.com/

1Q 2023 (1st quarter): flex hybrid light vehicles had 39.7% market share among electrified vehicles

Source: ABVE - BRAZILIAN ELECTRIC VEHICLES ASSOCIATION From: https://www.poder360.com.br/conteudo-patrocinado/hibridosflex-lideram-mercado-focado-na-descarbonizacao/

# Fuel cell system with on-board ethanol reformer to power a vehicle

e-Bio Fuel-Cell:

A fuel cell system using bioethanol (anhydrous or hydrous ethanol) as a fuel source to generate electricity through the Solid-Oxide Fuel Cell (SOFC).

The generated electricity charges the battery which provides power to the vehicle.

Since 2019 under test – Nissan/IPEN



https://www.nissan-global.com/EN/INNOVATION/TECHNOLOGY/ARCHIVE/E BIO FUEL CELL/







# Nowadays, no pressure to accelerate towards BEVs

### Brazil's official position: key arguments

from the Federal Energy Research Office (EPE)

- 1. Brazil's cities are not at critical pollution levels
- 2. Not a key player in the global technological race
- 3. Biofuels and flex-fuel vehicles give an important leverage
  - It can wait for technologies to mature and costs to decrease
  - Opportunity to use its existing industrial facilities and develop its own pathway to decarbonisation



Most polluted cities PM, in µg/m<sup>3</sup>





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