

Ecovite Drimol, a versatile product

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Ecovite Drimol is produced from a product called CMS, or "Condensed Molasses Solubles" which is a byproduct from the alcohol industry. In this case, alcohol is produced from molasses syrup, a byproduct from cane sugar production. The molasses syrup is diluted with water, yeast is added and the sugar within the molasses syrup is fermented to produce alcohol which is removed through distillation. The remaining byproduct is a thin syrup containing the remainder of the molasses, water and yeast. This syrup is then condensed (water is evaporated off) to form CMS, which contains around 30 – 50% solids

CMS is mainly used within the liquid fertiliser industry, with a large portion being sprayed back onto sugarcane fields. It has also been used extensively within the feed industry as a partial replacement for molasses syrup and/or to break the viscosity of molasses. There have also been dry versions of CMS available within the animal feed industry for many years. These products are produced by spray drying CMS on a specific limestone carrier to produce a fine molasses byproduct based powder. The specific manner in which it is spray dried, as well as the specific carrier that is used, results in a product with absolutely unique chemical- and physical properties. The well-known Rumevite range of feed concentrates was based on this product. Unfortunately the production of this range was ceased many years ago. Furthermore, the availability of CMS within South Africa has decreased over the past few years, mainly due to the increased use of maize to produce alcohol.

A company based in Eswatini, namely Royal Eswatini Sugar, produces large amounts of CMS from their alcohol plant. The CMS is delivered to a company called Enviro Applied Products, which sells the CMS within the fertiliser industry. In 2021, Enviro Applied Products started to investigate the possibility of diversifying by spray drying CMS for the feed industry again. The result of this investigation and subsequent developments, is a brand new plant for the spray drying of CMS and related products for the feed industry. The plant was built in the first half of 2024 and is now ready to start with full production. The first product being produced, is a standard spray dried CMS, called Ecovite Drimol.



The plant is unique due to the fact that it uses wood chips from the sawmill industry as an energy source to spray dry the CMS. Wood is a much cleaner and environmentally friendly source of energy than coal, which is generally used. Ecovite Drimol is therefore not only an environmentally friendly product, but also effectively utilises two byproducts from the sugar/alcohol and wood / paper industry.

Ecovite Drimol is a nutrient-rich product. It not only contains a moderate level of energy, but also provides protein, minerals, trace minerals and B-vitamins to animals. It therefore does not take up dead space within animal feeds, but contributes to the total nutrient content of the feed. Ecovite Drimol is a natural product, which contains no non-protein-nitrogen (NPN), growth stimulants or medicaments. Ecovite Drimol is therefore suitable and safe for consumption by all farm animals, including horses and game.

Ecovite Drimol has multiple applications within the feed industry, due to its unique chemical- and physical properties. Ecovite Drimol is ideal to either partially or totally replace any other molasses product in animal feed.. It has a unique molasses taste and smell. The major advantage that this product has over molasses syrup and molasses meal, is that it is a dry, free flowing powder, which is easily added to and mixed through feeds and it distributes evenly throughout the mixture.

Ecovite Drimol is therefore the ideal product to enhance the palatability and acceptability of feeds. It enables feed manufacturers to include less palatable ingredients at a higher rate, without causing a negative response in voluntary feed intake. Inclusion rates as low as 2.5% already provide feeds with a characteristic molasses flavour and smell.



Ecovite Drimol, due to both its chemical- and physical properties, is an excellent pellet binder. Some animal feed ingredients such as certain roughages and grain by-products are prone to make feed pellets brittle. There are various binders available which helps to bind the pellets effectively. Ecovite Drimol is not only effective as a pellet binder, but also provides a molasses flavour and taste to feed pellets. In contrast with other pellet binders, which normally contain little or no nutritional value, Ecovite Drimol also contributes to the total nutrient value of the feed.

A unique property of Ecovite Drimol is its ability to form a water resistant layer on top of mixtures which contains adequate levels of the product. This is especially beneficial in the case of lick supplements, since it protects the supplement against rain and wind losses. The ability to prevent water from entering supplements, is a significant advantage, especially during the rainy season. The most common supplements fed during the rainy season are so-called mineral or phosphate supplements, but nowadays it is also common to supplement additional energy, protein and NPN on green veld or pasture for optimal production and reproduction. Ecovite Drimol is ideal in these cases to prevent damage of especially energy- and NPN sources from water. Since NPN could be dangerous if dissolved in standing

water, the inclusion of Ecovite Drimol fulfills a critical role in that it not only prevents spoilage of the supplement, but also makes it much safer to the animals that consume it.

During the dry season the supplementation of protein and NPN, together with adequate levels of energy, is common. Here Ecovite Drimol plays an important part to protect these supplements against rain as well as wind losses. The type of energy supplied by Ecovite Drimol is ideal in supplements containing NPN, since it provides readily fermentable energy to the rumen bacteria for the most effective utilisation of NPN in microbial protein synthesis.

Ecovite Drimol becomes sticky and hardens when exposed to low levels of moisture. It can therefore be used with great success as a binder and hardener when lick supplements in block form are produced.

Ecovite Drimol dissolves in water to form a molasses-like liquid. This liquid is ideal to improve the acceptability of especially low quality roughage. It is not only bales that can be treated, but it can even be sprayed onto low quality veld grazing to improve acceptability, intake and utilisation. The liquid may also be enriched with NPN and even sulphur, to further improve the utilisation of low quality roughage.

Ecovite Drimol can also be used to improve the ensiling process, especially when silage is cut late. It provides sugars, which accelerates the ensiling process. It is dissolved in water and sprayed over the layers of fresh silage as the silage is brought in and compacted in the bunker.

From the above, it is clear that Ecovite Drimol is one of the most versatile and unique animal feed additives available in the market, with a wide range of applications. Due to this wide range of applications, which are dependent on the type of feed or supplement being fed, the ingredients used within these mixes, the form in it is being fed, as well as the type of animal and the environment, it is critical that each farmer or feed manufacturer receive tailor-made recommendations on the use of the product. The Feedtek group of nutritionists and agents are fully trained in the correct application of Ecovite Drimol. For tailor-made advice, please contact your nearest Feedtek nutritionist or agent for help in this regard.