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## **Ecopetrol** ya hace jabones y cremas humectantes

A make-up remover balm, a moisturizing cream, a sunscreen, an intimate soap and scented candles, created by an oil company?

This is **Ecopetrol's** new commitment in Colombia, but here the raw material is biowax, which is extracted from palm oil through hydrogen treatment.

According to the company, **laboratory tests showed that the application of these products on the skin does not generate any type of irritation, nor does it show levels of toxicity.**

This new milestone, which is part of **Ecopetrol's** science, innovation and technology strategy, is the result of a technological development project led in the last two years between the company, academia and other Santander institutions.

Thus, the development of these five prototypes of biocosmetic products would open a new horizon for business and job creation for the agro-industrial sector of the Magdalena Medio region, where the research was carried out.

"Thanks to this scientific effort **it is intended to consolidate a cosmetic ingredient of natural origin, which replaces synthetic or mineral compounds frequently used in cosmetic formulations** worldwide," noted the oil company.

And he added that it is also sought that this biocera has the requirements of the National Institute of Surveillance and Food and Drugs (Invima) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA, for its acronym in English) of the United States, for the manufacture of this type of products.

### The investment

This initiative was given thanks to an agreement signed between **Ecopetrol**, the Universidad Industrial de Santander (UIS), the Sena de Barrancabermeja and the Government of Santander.

And it contemplates a total investment of \$17,500 million, of which \$11,500 million correspond to contributions in kind from these entities, while \$5,984 million come from the Science, Technology and Innovation Fund of the General Royalties System (SGR).

### Opportunity for the sector

According to **Ecopetrol**, for the development of this innovation project, a total of 107 palm growers from four municipalities of Santander have been trained in sustainable practices in the production of cosmetics. **And the goal is to reach 325 palm producers with this line of training.**

"These products could become the basis for future developments that will contribute to technological independence for the manufacture of cosmetics based on national natural raw materials. Likewise, it is expected that in the next phase of the project an integration of the palm agro-industrial sector of the central Colombian zone will be achieved," said Luis Javier López, leader of the research project.

Finally, the project aims to generate a scenario of opportunity for Colombia to consolidate itself in the coming years as a leading country in the production and export of high-quality cosmetics, generated with natural ingredients.

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