

BAVARIA HAS INVESTED US 90 MILLION IN A WASTE WATER PROJECT

Bavaria SABMiller, pioneer in waste water management

The liquid contaminating discharges of the plants have reduced 95%

In order to comply with the environmental regulations in force in the country, and within its sustainable development program, Bavaria has implemented a comprehensive waste water management for nearly twenty years. The company has assigned resources of nearly US 90 million for this purpose.

To such end, the organization has treatment plants at each of its factories, which are equipped, except for Cervecería Unión in Medellín, anaerobic systems (life in an environment that lacks oxygen).

Some breweries and malting plants have supplementary aerobic biological units (life in oxygen bearing environments) to comply with more demanding parameters from both the regional environmental authority and from the World Bank; such is the case in the breweries of Barranquilla and Valle.

In order to comply with quality norms of waste waters, other factories must use systems in addition to the anaerobic and aerobic ones, through physicochemical treatment units, just like Cervecería Leona and Maltería de Tibitó.

On the other hand, Cervecería Unión delivers neutralized effluents to the municipality (liquids used in an industrial plant), which is in charge of managing the organic layer and charges the company a fee for such treatment.

Consequently, the investments seek to improve the productive and bottling processes, while reducing the contamination problems.

Specific Projects

Bavaria is forwarding various projects that include the recovery of organic contaminating materials that were formerly discharged to the municipal sewage system or to the bodies of water, such as spent grains, yeast, spent grain liquor and wort settling residues at the brewhouses, among others.

In such regard, liquid contaminating discharges from the company's plants have been reduced 95%.

Organic contaminating materials become by-products that are currently used to prepare animal food concentrates. Part of these by-products is sold directly to cattle raising farmers.

Another program worth highlighting is the selection of glass breakage produced from the discharges, the containers' room, which were not fully managed at such discharges, as well as the recovery of labels from the bottle washing (which return to the consumer) to commercialize them with paper producing companies.

Technological changes are also being forwarded through the acquisition of equipment that consume less water and discharge less contaminating waste waters, and offer better operation and clean-up practices to reduce the amount of contaminating discharges.