

## Improving Paper Quality and Variable Cost Applying an Innovative Chemistry to Allow Local Acacia Usage

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The UCWF market is fiercely competitive. The combined effects of a protracted economic slow down in North America and Europe combined with new capacity coming on line in China has depressed selling prices while simultaneously forcing companies to offer enhanced quality features to differentiate their products.

How can papermakers address the dilemma of reducing costs while increasing product features and quality?

BASF's recent innovation of VFA-copolymers has allowed APRIL to address this dilemma, achieving the desired outcomes of improved paper quality and reducing variable costs. By increasing initial wet web strength using this chemistry, APRIL has been able to substitute 67 kg/t of imported BSWK with 67kg/t of Acacia BHWK slush pulp, significantly reducing variable costs and simultaneously improving the formation, smoothness (at same bulk), Z direction filler distribution and internal bond of the paper.

Asia Pacific Resources International Limited (APRIL) is a leading fibre, pulp and paper manufacturer and one of the world's largest producers of bleached hardwood kraft (BHK) pulp. The APRIL Kerinci integrated pulp and paper mill located in Pangkalan Kerinci, Sumatra, produces 820,000 t/yr of UCWF grades on two high speed gap former machines.