



पृथ्वीराज चव्हाण

राज्य मंत्री

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Message

I am happy to note that the Bio-diesel Association of India is organizing a two-day Convention on 5th and 6th of January, 2007 at New Delhi. This Association is playing an important role in spreading awareness about the potential of bio-diesel and encouraging its production and use.

India's need for energy is increasing rapidly and it has put severe strain on our natural resources and has also increased country's dependence on imports. Energy security has become a major concern in India due to limited reserves of fossil fuels particularly hydro-carbons. There is therefore, urgent need to identify alternative sources of energy with eco-friendly characteristics. Bio-diesel is such an alternative source of energy and its importance can not be overemphasized.

Jethropha and Karanj are gaining wide acceptance as feed-stock for production of Bio-diesel. However, uncertainty about yields requires extensive research to establish viable germ plasms suitable for each agro-climatic regions of the country.

To increase area under cultivation of these plants, alternate strategy options such as corporate commercial plantations, development of waste lands for energy plantation and involvement of Panchayat bodies, rural cooperatives and SHGs is necessary. In addition, there is a need to evolve various business models such as direct sale, distributed power generation and use in railways and municipal transport.

There is need to facilitate easy import of non-edible fatty acids residue as a raw stock until such time that Jethropha seeds are available in sufficient quantity. Also a long-term policy framework for selling price and taxation regime for bio-diesel needs to be established.

The initiatives taken by the Biodiesel Association is praise-worthy. On this occasion, I convey my best wishes to the Organizers for successful outcome of this effort.

(Prithviraj Chavan)

4th January, 2007