

Press Release:

U.P commits to adopt bioenergy in a big way

A seminar on **Green Energy for Clean Environment** was jointly organized by Biotech Park, Bharat Renewable Energy Limited and Association of Knowledge Workers Lucknow, bringing together all the stakeholders under one umbrella to boost and encourage the development of bio-energy value chain in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Welcoming the guests Dr. PK Seth (CEO Biotech Park) pointed out that our energy resources are going down and we have to look for alternate sources of energy, be it solar, nuclear or windmill. "The most traditional way has been use of biomass i.e. using the waste and the biofuel. In 2008, Planning Commission announced the biofuel policy in which a target to blend 20% biodiesel was envisaged. He said govt. very consensually decided to use wasteland and plant trees which produce non-edible oil. For this about 140,000 sq metres of wasteland will be required but only 5000 sqmt have been planted. There is a big gap. We need good quality of planting material and Biotech Park is producing the same." Praising the efforts of U.P. government, he said an example model of biodiesel value chain has been established which has attracted two companies BREL and Indian Oil Ruchi Biofuels LLP. Dr. Seth said that plantation of Jatropha in 1000 acres in Gijapuri farms in District Behraich has already set an example and resource for good quality seeds.

Chief guest Shri Alok Ranjan, Agriculture Production Commissioner GoUP (also chairman of State level Bio-energy committee) delivering the presidential remarks said that govt is committed to have clean environment and go for bioenergy. He asked the experts to chalk out proper plan which can be implemented.

Veterans and leaders of bio-energy industry shared experiences of success, challenges and opportunities, stimulating awareness about how bioenergy and biofuel was the future of the world and that Uttar Pradesh had a huge untapped potential to be listed on the National biodiesel map.

Bharat Renewable Energy Ltd, joint venture of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. is a leading biofuel company and one such forerunner in building bio-energy value chain in Uttar Pradesh in coordination with Bio Energy Mission Cell of UP.

BREL, CEO Mr. RB Singh shared how BREL has been operating at the grass root level and generating livelihood for marginal communities. It has registered around **75 lakh mandays** of employment generation under MNREGS by way of biofuel plantation on **10000 acres** of wastelands across Uttar Pradesh in **last 3 years**, also **22000 acres** of biofuel plantation is proposed for this year.

BREL is aggressively engaged in biodiesel production thus placing Uttar Pradesh on the Biodiesel map with **10 thousand litres** of biodiesel production this year. This is a phenomenal contribution to the current national biodiesel requirement which is around **4 million MT** at the rate of **5% blending** with diesel, as per the National biofuel policy.

Biotech Park Lucknow, established under Department of Biotechnology, has been authorized by GoUP for delivering technical guidance to BREL and forms a significant pillar in BREL's operating model.

BREL and Biotech Park Lucknow are collaboratively working under MoU towards R&D, trainings and promotion of Biotechnology in the state.

Honorable chief guest Shri Alok Ranjan (APC and Chairman State bio-energy committee) extended his support expressing that State agriculture policy should be aligned to accommodate bioenergy initiatives. He also encouraged more and more awareness & training campaigns to be launched to boost these initiatives. Shri Alok Ranjan also encouraged the use of bio fertilizers in place of chemical fertilizers and expressed Biotech Park Lucknow to initiate bio-fertilizer programs in the state. An interactive panel discussion on "Viability of biofuel crops and possibilities of other sources of bioenergy" followed.

Association of Knowledge Workers Lucknow (AKWL) was also a member of the organizing committee for the seminar on Green Energy for Clean Environment, held at Biotech Park Lucknow.