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To  
The Editor,

Date: 7-11-2014

Sir,

I request that the following matter may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

### **Renewable Energy the Viable Option to Mitigate Energy Crises, says VC**

The inaugural function of winter school on Renewable Energy as option for mitigating climate change was held in the Department of Bioenergy, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2014. The programme is for 21 days and is sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

Dr. S. Kamaraj, Professor and Head, Department of Bioenergy and course Director welcomed the gathering. In his welcome address, he mentioned that mitigating the climate change is the need of the hour and hence this programme has been organized to address this climate change. The programmes like biogas, solar energy, wind energy, producer gas will be explored for further speedy promotion in order to mitigate the climate change. The success stories of Renewable Energy sources adoption in Tamil Nadu will be replicated in other parts of the country through the participation of 19 Scientists from other States in this course.

Dr. K. Alagusundaram, DDG (Agrl.Engg), ICAR, Govt. of India, New Delhi inaugurated the programme. He stressed that the India's energy consumption has been increasing at one of the fastest rates in the world due to population growth and economic development. Commercial primary energy consumption in India has grown by about 700% in the last four decades. The per capita consumption in India is in the order of 1000 kWh

per annum. Driven by the rising population, expanding economy and a quest for improved quality of life, energy usage in India is expected to grow at an exponential rate.

The increase in population, accompanied by rapid urbanization and industrialization led to increased use of fossil fuels. Energy supply will be the basis for the future economic and social development. Hence we need to develop cost effective renewable energy technologies. Renewable systems are the only energy generating systems which have the combined benefits of renewability, decentralization and availability on demand without need for separate storage.

At present the total renewable energy based power generation in India is 28,000 MW out of total generation of 2, 30,000 MW which works out to be 12.17 % only. The power requirement in Tamil Nadu is more than 12,000 MW whereas the supply of power is about 10,000MW. According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy sources, there exists a potential for exploitation of the order of 80,000 MW, he hoped.

Among the different renewable energy sources, wind energy is currently making a significant contribution to the installed capacity of power generation, and is emerging as a competitive option, he added.

He said that the change is imperative to meet the ever increasing food demand. Agricultural Engineering has Enhancement in agricultural productivity along with developing natural resources and mitigating climate to play a critical role by adopting renewable energy technologies, farm mechanization and post harvest management to achieve higher agricultural production.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU delivered the presidential address. He lamented that the traditional biomass, primarily for cooking and heating, represents about 13 percent and is growing slowly or even declining in some regions as biomass is used more efficiently or replaced by more modern energy forms. Some of the recent predictions suggest that biomass energy is likely to make up one third of the total world energy mix by 2050.

He further said Carbon dioxide emissions have been and will continue to increase over time and many countries are looking for ways to reduce or alter the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> harming our environment. The over exploitation of fossil fuels has been posing serious

environmental problems such as global warming and climate change. It is estimated surplus biomass availability at about 120 – 150 million metric tonnes per annum covering agricultural and forestry residues corresponding to a potential of about 18,000 MW.

He wanted that the biomass availability in Tamil Nadu should be identified and a data bank should be created. Energy plantations and biomass processing industries should be promoted to facilitate logistics support. 1000 MW of electricity production should be achieved by 2020 and to develop a GIS-based Biomass Resource Atlas to map for Tamil Nadu.

Dr. C. Divaker Durairaj, Dean, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore has proposed vote of thanks.

Public Relations Officer