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To  
The Editor,

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Sir,

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

**National Conference on “Green fuels from Biomass: Biorefinery approach**

Department of Bioenergy, Agricultural Engineering College & Research Institute (AEC&RI), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore organized a one day National Conference on “Green Fuels from Biomass: Biorefinery Approach” supported by MNRE, GOI on Nov. 8, 2014, at. The conference started by inauguration at Golden Jubilee Hall. The conference had about 150 participants to present their views and ideas from various parts of the country.

Dr. S. Kamaraj, Professor and Head, Department of Bioenergy and Conference Director welcomed the participants. In his welcome address he mentioned that in order to meet the increasing energy demand, the State and Central governments are supporting renewable energy programmes including National Biogas Manure Management Programme, Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, Unnat Chulha Abhiyan (Programme on improved chulhas), Solar roof top power plants, Solar powered Agricultural Pumping Systems, Biomass and Biogas based power generation systems etc. 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. In Tamil Nadu, the power supply is about 10,000 MW only whereas the requirement is more than 12,000 MW. Hence, the Government of Tamil Nadu has introduced solar energy policy to generate 3000 MW in 3 years period. Since the power demand is increasing steadily, the gap between supply and demand is also widening.

Inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Negi, Director, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, GOI, New Delhi in his inaugural address spoke about the various

emerging technologies in renewable energy sector to meet out the energy crisis. He also appreciated the efforts taken by the department of Bioenergy being the South Indian regional centre for Biogas. Following him, Thiru Ganesh I.A.S delivered the special address about the various alternatives of renewable energy he wishes to implement in the society creating awareness to the public.

Shri. S. Ganesh, I.A.S., Commissioner of Coimbatore Corporation in his special address told that Urbanization and economic development are leading to a rapid rise in energy demand in urban areas in our country leading to enhanced Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. Many cities around the world are setting targets and introducing polices for promoting renewable energy and reducing GHG emissions and the countries like Australia and USA are developing the solar cities. Several Indian cities and towns are experiencing rapid growth in the peak electricity demand. The local governments and the electricity utilities are finding it difficult to cope with this rapid rise in demand and as a result most of the cities/towns are facing electricity shortages. In this context, the “Development of Solar Cities” programme is designed to support/encourage Urban Local Bodies to prepare a Road Map to guide their cities in becoming ‘renewable energy cities’ or ‘solar cities’, he added.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has already initiated various programmes in the Urban Sector for promoting solar water heating systems in homes, hotels, hostels, hospitals and industry; deployment of SPV systems/devices in urban areas for demonstration and awareness creation; establishment of ‘AkshyaUrja Shops’; design of Solar Buildings and promoting urban and industrial waste/ biomass to energy projects. The solar city programme aims to consolidate all the efforts of the Ministry in the Urban Sector and address the energy problem of the urban areas in a holistic manner, he added.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU delivered the presidential address. In his presidential address told that the TNAU has designed, developed and released many renewable energy gadgets like high rate reactors for waste water treatment, solar hybrid dryer for value addition of agricultural commodities through solar drying, energy efficient smokeless chulhas, cost effective biomass based producer gas plant etc., for adoption by various stakeholders viz industries, farmers, entrepreneurs, NGO’s, educational institutions etc.

The conference had a technical session by morning involving various eminent persons like Er. R. Kulothungan, Dr. R. Udaya Kumar, Dr. S. Kamaraj, Dr. P. Doraisamy, Dr. J. John Gunasekaran and Er. Ishaq Sulthan who shared their innovative ideas on Biomass Technologies. The session also included Bank Schemes for Renewable Energy Technology Installations. The next technical session started by afternoon having parallel oral, poster and model presentations. Not only the students from various colleges and universities, but also the scientists and industrialists actively participated and exhibited their ideas on Biochemical and Thermochemical Energy Conversion Technologies, Energy Auditing and Solar Energy Technologies.

Finally, Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU released the National Conference proceedings and it was received Dr. B.S. Negi.

Dr. C. Divaker Durairaj, Dean (AEC&RI), TNAU, Coimbatore proposed a formal Vote Of Thanks.

Public Relations Officer