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ग्राम स्वराज्य की मेरी कल्पना यह है कि यह एक ऐसा पूर्ण प्रजातंत्र होगा, जो अपनी अहम जरूरतों के लिए अपने पड़ोसी पर भी निर्भर नहीं करेगा, और फिर भी दूसरी जरूरतों के लिए जिसमें दूसरों का सहयोग अनिवार्य होगा, वह परस्पर सहयोग से काम लेगा।

महात्मा गांधी

CONTENTS

सम्पादकीय	3
Biogas : An alternate Energy Technology	4
Bio Energy	5
सामाजिक वनिकी पर्यावरण प्रबंधन की दिशा में पंचायत का एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम	6
Environment Improvement Through Biogas Technology Role of Panchayat	7
Alternative sources of Energy : A Revolutionary step by the panchayats for the Environment Conservation and Management	8
Wind Energy	10
Social Forestry and Its Effect on Environemtn	11
From Print Media	13
समाचार पत्रों से	14
Messages	15

एक छोटी सी टिप्पणी

क्या आप जानते हैं ?

पर्यावरण में होता लगातार बदलाव मनुष्य को विनाश की दिशा में ले जा रहा है। यदि हम अपने पारिस्थितिक तंत्र को संतुलित नहीं कर पाते हैं तो निकट भविष्य में हमें निम्नलिखित बातों के लिए तैयार रहना होगा :

1. वायु प्रदूषण से बचने के लिए **प्रदूषण रोधक मास्क** लगाना पड़ेगा।
2. अम्लीय वर्षा से बचाव के लिए धातु के बने **रेन कोट तथा छातों** का प्रयोग करना पड़ेगा।
3. ध्वनि प्रदूषण से बचाव के लिए कानों में ध्वनि को नियंत्रित करने वाले यंत्र लगाने होंगे।
4. तीव्र रोशनी से बचने के लिए आंखों पर कांच का फिल्टर कवच लगाना होगा।
5. "वृक्ष" केवल संग्रहालय की एक धरोहर बन कर रह जाएगा।
6. "ग्लोबल वार्मिंग" से उत्पन्न होने वाली समस्याओं का सामना

Articles are invited on the topic of "Chemical Fertilizers and Environment Management" for the next edition of the newsletter "Panchayat"

सम्पादकीय

पर्यावरण आज के दौर का एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण शब्द हो गया है। इस एक छोटे से शब्द ने अपने अन्दर पूरी प्रकृति को समेट लिया है। बात चाहे जल की हो, वायु की अथवा जीव जन्तुओं की प्रत्येक वस्तु प्रकृति का ही भाग है। प्रत्येक प्राणी अपनी आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति के लिए पर्यावरण पर निर्भर करता है। किन्तु हम कभी कभी अपने हितों की पूर्ति के लिए अनजाने में गलतियां करना शुरू कर देते हैं। प्रकृति ने पर्यावरण की संरचना जीवन को सुचारु रूप से चलने देने के लिए की है। किन्तु हम अपने स्वार्थों की पूर्ति के लिए प्रयोग की सीमाओं को लांघ कर दुरुपयोग की दहलीज़ पर खड़े हैं। हमें साधन दिए गए थे हमारी जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए किन्तु हम अपने दाता का ध्यान न रख कर उसे दुःख पहुंचा रहे हैं। यदि हम कुछ दे नहीं सकते हैं तो हमें छीनने का भी हक नहीं है।

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में रहने वाली जनसंख्या पूर्णरूप से पर्यावरण में पाए जाने वाले साधनों का प्रयोग अपने निजि हितों की पूर्ति के लिए करती हैं समय बीतने से साथसाथ प्रयोग दुरुपयोग में परिवर्तित हो गया। जब दुरुपयोग की सीमा बढ़ने लगी तब सरकार ने पर्यावरण संरक्षण के लिए महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाया। प्रत्येक गांव में पंचायतों को पर्यावरण संरक्षण के संदर्भ में आगे आने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया गया। 73 वें संविधान संशोधन के बाद पंचायती राज व्यवस्था में “पर्यावरण संरक्षण” एक महत्वपूर्ण जिम्मेदारी के रूप में सामने आया। बढ़ते हुए परम्परागत संसाधनों के बढ़ते हुए दुरुपयोग, वनों के ह्रास, जल संकट, प्रदूषण आदि समस्याओं के निदान के लिए पंचायतों ने वैकल्पिक संसाधनों के प्रयोग एवम् विकास, वन संरक्षण, जल संरक्षण, प्रदूषण निवारण इत्यादि प्रबंधन कार्यों में ग्रामीणों को प्रोत्साहित तथा जागरूक किया है। पर्यावरण हनन से उत्पन्न होने वाली समस्याओं के बारे में जागृत किया है। गांवों में पर्यावरण जागरूकता के लिए पंचायत ने क्रांतिकारी कदम उठाया है।

इसी श्रृंखला में भारतीय पर्यावरण समिति ने पंचायत के इस अंक में पर्यावरण, पर्यावरण संरक्षण, पर्यावरण प्रबंधन, वैकल्पिक संसाधन विकास की दिशा में पंचायतों के सहयोग पर प्रकाश डाला है। आशा करते हैं आप के लिए पंचायत का यह अंक लाभप्रद होगा।

डा. देश बन्धु

BIOGAS : AN ALTERNATE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

by Vandana Kaushik , Programme Officer, IRENet



Energy is the prime source of all socio-economic activities of the human community. Mahatama Gandhi, in his vision for India, envisaged a system of devolved, self-sufficient communities, sustaining their needs from the local environment, and organising income-generating ventures around co-operative structures. Fifty years on, and Gandhi's vision of Swadeshi (self-sufficiency) for India, despite interpreted by some as a romantic and bucolic notion, is perhaps more urgent than ever. Diminishing forests, and a burgeoning, mainly rural biomass-dependent population of 984 million, necessitates a coordinated effort of rural India to supply itself with a dependable and sustained source of energy. Energy from solar, wind, hydro and ocean all have a significant future potential to play in a mixed energy production scenario. However, of particular interest here, in the context of providing a devolved, sustainable energy supply for the burgeoning rural sector in India, is the potential of biogas; the gas created as a product of anaerobic digestion of organic materials. The government views biogas technology as a vehicle to reduce rural poverty, and as a tool in part of wider drive for rural development. Biogas technology has been in use in India for nearly a hundred years. However, realization of the potential and the fact that India supports the largest cattle wealth led to the promotion of National Programme on Biogas Development in a major way in the late 1970s as an answer to the growing fuel crisis and its subsequent inclusion in the Prime Minister's 20-point programme. It gained further momentum with the establishment of Department (Now Ministry) of Non Conventional Energy

Sources. The ministry adopted a decentralized multi agency and multi model implementation strategy for this nation wide initiative. At the state level, the programme implemented through a nodal agency responsible for achieving installation targets, managing finances, monitoring etc. Other agencies like District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), the Block Development office, local private sector entrepreneurs, local government, dairy cooperatives and rural non-government organizations are also actively participating in the implementation of the programme. In addition, the national banks are also involved in the programme through the provision of providing soft loans to the beneficiaries to particularly meet the construction cost.

Biogas technology provides an alternate source of energy in rural India, and is hailed as an archetypal appropriate technology that meets the basic need for cooking fuel in rural areas. Using local resources, viz. cattle waste and other organic wastes, energy and manure are derived. Biogas is produced from organic wastes by concerted action of various groups of anaerobic bacteria. An attempt has been made in this review on the work done by our scientists in understanding the microbial diversity in biogas digesters, their interactions, factors affecting biogas production, alternate feed stocks, and uses of spent slurry.

Why Biogas

The gas is useful as a fuel substitute for firewood, dung, agricultural residues, petrol, diesel, and electricity, depending on the nature of the task, and local supply conditions and constraints (Lichtman, 1983), thus

supplying energy for cooking and lighting. Biogas systems also provide a residue organic waste, after anaerobic digestion that has superior nutrient qualities over the usual organic fertilizer, cattle dung. Anaerobic digesters also function as a waste disposal system, particularly for human waste, and can, therefore, prevent potential sources of environmental contamination and the spread of pathogens. Small-scale industries are also made possible, from the sale of surplus gas to the provision of power for a rural-based industry; therefore, biogas may also provide the user with income generating opportunities. The user with income generating opportunities. The gas can also be used to power engines, in a dual fuel mix with petrol (Jawurek et al, 1987) and diesel (KVIC, 1993), and can aid in pumped irrigation systems.

Apart from the direct benefits gleaned from biogas systems, there are other, perhaps less tangible benefits associated with this renewable technology. By providing an alternative source of fuel, biogas can replace the traditional biomass based fuels, notably wood. Introduced on a significant scale, biogas may reduce the dependence on wood from forests, and create a vacuum in the market, at least for firewood.

Reasons for not being so successful

It would be worth briefly considering the problems associated with the alternative technology, in terms of technology/operational, economic, and cultural aspects, which may potentially hinder its spread.

Technically, problems have arisen from installing too large a capacity plant, either by accident or design. Nag et

al (1986) discovered that there was a general tendency for householders to construct an over-sized plant, even when they were only used for cooking purposes and not applied to wider energy demands. Too large a plant was found to lead to under feeding, and eventual failure of the plants to produce gas. Under feeding was also found to occur due to the under-collection of dung, estimated typically at 30-40% of the required capacity, and principally due to cattle being worked in the field, which would also lead to a reduction in gas production. Dung may also vary in its availability, by forced sale of cattle, or even death of cattle. In some areas, the plant may not be technically feasible all year round due to low winter temperatures that inhibit methanogenesis.

Conclusion

Biogas has shown to be a useful component in the rural economy in India, though its application is logistically difficult. Participation in biogas technology varies across socio-economic groups, and across regions. Despite a well-intentioned attempt to cater for the poor, as defined by 'scheduled caste' and 'scheduled tribe', the biogas programme has not appeared to meet these needs on any meaningful scale, through insurmountable constraints associated with their very marginality, paradoxically. Limited success has occurred in other agricultural groups.

However, this renewable energy technology is accessible, affordable, reliable and safe for utilization.



BIO ENERGY — Dominating the world energy scene...

by Aarti Kaushik, Project Associate

The use of biomass has dominated the world energy scene since the beginning of manland, and continues to do so for a large part of the rural population in many developing countries. Photosynthesis provides 120 billion tonnes of biomass every year corresponding to about five times the total world's energy need.

Approximately 14% of World's Energy supply today is from biomass. There are several routes of converting biomass into useable energy form. Most conventional form is to burn it to produce heat. Bio-ethanol and bio-diesel are now produced which can be used to fuel cars.

A more promising route is gasification and/or burning it in fluidised bed boilers. Briquetting

route for using bio-coal in conventional boilers is also gaining ground. Biomass briquettes are equivalent to 'B-grade' coal (3800 kCal/kg) in terms of heat value. Energy plantation with a predicted crop yield of 15 tonnes of dry poplar per ha per year can lead to an electricity production of about 30,000 kWh/ha/year. India generates a vast amount of biomass material which can be utilised for power generation. Agricultural waste itself is estimated around 400 million tonnes per year. Programmes are also being developed for direct combustion and grid interactive gasification using woody biomass or agricultural residues such as crop straws, stalks and husk



सामाजिक वनिकी पर्यावरण प्रबंधन की दिशा में पंचायत का एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम

विपिन रानी, प्रोजेक्ट एसोसियेट, भारतीय पर्यावरण समिति

भारत एक कृषि प्रधान देश है, जिसकी 70 प्रतिशत से अधिक जनसंख्या गरीबी रेखा के नीचे रहती है। जिनमें से अधिकतर लोग अपने जीवनयापन की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए वनों पर निर्भर करते हैं। वनों का प्रयोग तीव्र गति से होने के कारण बाज हमारे देश में वन रूपी हरित पट्टी का प्रतिशत कम होता जा रहा है।

ग्रामीणों द्वारा चराई, लकड़ी, जलावन, फल इत्यादि की प्राप्ति के लिए तीव्र गति से वनों का प्रयोग किया जा रहा है। इस प्रकार के प्रयोग ने एक समय पश्चात हनन् का रूप ले लिया। इसी बढ़ती हुई समस्या के कारण पर्यावरण संबंधी समस्याएं उत्पन्न होने लगी जैसे कि - भूमि कटाव, सूखा, बाढ़, भूमण्डल के तापमान की एकाएक वृद्धि हो जाना।

इन बढ़ती हुई समस्याओं के कारण देश के आर्थिक ढांचे में भी गड़बड़ी होने लगी। इन समस्याओं के कारण सरकार का ध्यान एक नए एवम् बेहतर विकल्प की तरफ गया जिसे "सामाजिक वनिकी" के नाम से जाना जाता है।

सामाजिक वनिकी एक सहयोगी कदम है सामाजिक वनिकी जनता का, जनता के लिए उठाया गया कदम है। जिसको बढ़ावा देने के लिए ग्राम पंचायत द्वारा पर्यावरण संरक्षण तथा चारे एवम् ईंधन का समस्या का समाधान करने के लिए सहायता प्रदान की जाती है।

इस कार्य को बढ़ावा देने के लिए पंचायत ने कई कार्यकारी कदम उठाए हैं। सरकार द्वारा प्रत्येक पंचायत को कुछ भूमि दी जाती है। यह भूमि पंचायत द्वारा प्रयोग में लाई जाती है। पंचायत इस प्रकार से मिली भूमि पर चारे, ईंधन तथा अन्य प्रकार के पौधे लगवाती है। वृक्षारोपण के लिए घरों के पीछे की भूमि, गांव में बेकार पड़ी बंजर भूमि जिस पर खेती नहीं हो सकती है, का भी प्रयोग किया जा सकता है। केवल इस बात का ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि लगाए गए पौधे आसपास के वातावरण के अनुरूप पनपने में सक्षम होने चाहिए।

एक वृक्ष का चुनाव करते समय कुछ सावधानियों का ध्यान रखना आवश्यक है।

- ❖ पौधा उस स्थान की भौगोलिक परिस्थिति के अनुसार जीवन जी सके।
- ❖ वृक्ष की प्रजाति इस प्रकार की होनी चाहिए कि यदि हम कम अंतराल पर उस चारे के लिए छंटाई की जाए तो उसमें नई कोंपले आने की दर तीव्र होनी चाहिए।
- ❖ लगाया जाने वाला वृक्ष बहुउपयोगी गुणों से भरपूर होना चाहिए, जैसे



कि एक ही वृक्ष से हमें चारा, लकड़ी, ईंधन तथा पत्तियां इत्यादि मिलनी चाहिए।

- ❖ वृक्ष की प्रजाति वातावरण से नाईट्रोजन ले कर उसे स्थापित करने में सक्षम हो।
- ❖ जड़ तंत्र पूर्णतः विकसित होना चाहिए ताकि वातावरण में होने वाले परिवर्तन को सहन कर सके।

सामाजिक वनिकी के लिए निम्नलिखित पौधों का प्रयोग किया जा सकता है :-

Lucaena leucocephala, Casuarinas equisetifolia, Dalbergia sisso, Acacia nilotica, Albizzia lebbek, Samania saman, Pangamia pinnata, Dandrocalthus strictus, Artocarpus integrifolus, Semecarpus integrifolus, Diospyrus ebenum, Acacia auriculiformis, Syzygium cuminea, Mango, Jackfruit, Tamarindus indica.

सामाजिक वनिकी के द्वारा हमें निम्न लाभ प्राप्त हुए हैं :-

- ❖ भूमि कटाव की दर में कमी आई है।
- ❖ प्रत्येक घर में रोजगार को बढ़ावा मिला है, आर्थिक सुधार में तेजी आई है।
- ❖ प्रत्येक क्षेत्र में हरित पट्टी का विकास हुआ है।
- ❖ जैव विविधता में सुधार हुआ है।
- ❖ वन्य जीवन संरक्षण की दिशा में अग्रसर हुआ है।
- ❖ सामाजिक वनिकी एक मुख्य तथा महत्वपूर्ण कारक है जोकि पर्यावरण ह्रास तथा गरीबी को दूर करने में अग्रसर हुआ है।
- ❖ सामाजिक वनिकी से जल संरक्षण तथा भूमि सुधार के कार्यों को करने में सहायता मिली है। जिसके कारण स्वस्थ सम्मत् भूमि विकास हुआ है।
- ❖ यह एक संयोजित कार्यक्रम है जिसके द्वारा भोजन, चारा एवम् लकड़ी संबंधी समस्याओं का समाधान हुआ है।
- ❖ इसके अतिरिक्त वायु प्रदूषण तथा जल प्रदूषण की दर में कमी आई है नदियों में जलस्तर बढ़ गया है।
- ❖ सामाजिक वनिकी कार्यक्रम ने व्यर्थ पड़ी भूमि तथा पंचायतों को सरकार द्वारा मिली भूमि का बेहतर प्रयोग करने का विकल्प जागृत किया है।

पंचायत द्वारा उठाए जा रहे सहायतार्थ कदम :

सामाजिक वनिकी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए पंचायत महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है। पंचायत पारस्परिक तंत्र में सामंजस्य तथा धनार्जन दोनों ही कार्यों में सहायता करती है। कुछ महत्वपूर्ण कदम :

- ❖ निश्चित समयअंतराल के बाद बैठक का आयोजन ताकि लोगों में नई तकनीक, नए विकास साधन, नई वृक्ष प्रजातियों संबंधी जानकारी बढ़ाई जा सके।
- ❖ जागरूकता केन्द्रों की स्थापना, ताकि लोगों सामाजिक वनिकी से संबंधित जानकारी दी जा सके।
- ❖ प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन करना।



ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT THROUGH BIOGAS TECHNOLOGY ROLE OF PANCHAYAT

Indian Environmental Society

Introduction

Energy and environment have become a major concern in every walk of life. Environmental safety has become the most essential factor and energy has become the most vital element for very existence today. To cope with energy crisis and conserve our environment we have to "think globally and act locally".

The present day energy requirements are met mainly from the following :

- ✓ Fuel wood
- ✓ Fossil fuels
- ✓ Hydel power
- ✓ Waste materials like cow dung cakes, farming wastes etc.

Fossil fuels are obtained from plant materials, which are buried under the ground for several years. Their reserves are therefore not limited. Availability of fuel wood has become alarmingly precarious; the forest cover in the country is decreasing at an alarming rate and is hardly 19 per cent.

The load on forest will further escalate due to increase in population.

Energy Demand and Supply Curve:

Per capita consumption is considered as one of the indices to measure prosperity in a country. Development whether it is Industrial or any other related area requires adequate supply of energy. Therefore, energy demand is increasing day-by-day all over the world. The requirement for domestic sector, street lightening and village industries is also expected to rise many folds. At the same time constraints on the fuel production and financial resources in executing power projects are widening the gap in supply and demand of power.

Present Situation

Today, every country draws its energy needs from variety of commercial and non-commercial sources. Most of these sources are organic in nature and when they are burnt, they produce many pollutants like waste heat, ash, oxides of carbon, sulphate and nitrogen and other particular matter. There are some problems that are directly linked to human beings and needs immediate solution. These are :

- ✓ Adequate energy requirements to meet needs of our increasing population.
- ✓ Reducing pollution must minimize environmental risks.

- ✓ Reduction of safety and security risks associated with the use of nuclear energy and hydel power.

Biogas Technology : Relief to Women

The energy resources, which have reduced pollution, are available in ample and have the best chance of their large-scale utilization. Biogas is one such energy resource in the Indian context. The combustion of the firewood, animal dung, aquatic biomass, tree leaves, energy weeds and any organic residues creates environmental problems. Interesting thing to see in the amount of pollution created by biogas by the same organic material. It creates very less pollution in comparison to the energy sources, thus turned as a better fuel in environment terms.

In global sense, health and environmental conditions are closely linked. It is women, who use the bulk of the fuels in cooking and in many other areas. As a result the twin concerns of energy and the status of women has been the focus in number of recent studies.

Women suffer from several chronic and acute injuries of eye and lung diseases due to smoke.

Advantages to Rural Community

- ✓ Biogas technology helps in eliminating the drudgery of women and adds few healthy years to their life.
- ✓ Relieves from smoke and soot.
- ✓ More space in the house as no need to store firewood and dung cakes.
- ✓ Increase in school enrolment by girls who don't require going out for collecting fuel wood.
- ✓ Other benefits include reduction in cooking time; saving on fuel expenditure and better living conditions in rural homes with indirect contribution in reducing the environmental deterioration due to loss of forest cover, soil erosion etc.

Role of Panchayats

- ✓ Panchayats have a key role to play in creating awareness among the rural people about the use of Biogas technology. They should tell them about the advantages of this eco-friendly technology.
- ✓ Pamphlets, plays, meetings etc. can generate awareness among the rural people.
- ✓ As Biogas plants are costly in both installation and maintenance, Panchayats should help the poorer rural people in the 'low cost option' as designed by The Shivaji University, Kolhapur and named it as 'Shivaji biogas plant model', which is more efficient and relatively cheaper.

Continue on Page10

ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENGERGY : A REVOLUTIONARY STEP BY THE PANCHAYATS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

by **Vipin Rani** , Project Associate, IES

In today's time society is socially and economically well versed. Every person in the society has a question raising day by day in his mind that what will happen with the energy sources in future? As the development is moving very fast in today's time, the energy consumption and needs are also increasing. New sources are arranged for the energy supply; new products are being manufactured for the purpose. For the fulfillment of the purpose extra energy is required and this energy is provided by fuels supply. For the energy manufacture fuels are necessary. That is the reason that consumption of fuel has been increased. The increasing rate of population is also increasing the energy consumption.

Demands in concern with energy are increasing day by day. In India coal resource is of 10 lakh 80 thousands tons, which is 2.29% of the total production, comparatively population of the country is 1/6th of the world population. In the whole world the amount of gas is 23 lakh mega tons. India has 41 thousand mega tons available. The coal available in the entire world can be utilized up to next 100 years. But oil is only available for use for next 50 years only.

India, being an agricultural country, has around 75% people living in the rural areas. They are mainly dependent on the firewood, crop residues and animal waste for the cooking and other energy consumption purposes. All the sources are depleting at the enormous rate.

Poverty is the main reason that people in the India are degrading the forest most for the consumption of the energy. They use the cow dung for the purpose of fuel consumption rather than making compost from it. Deforestation leads to the decrease in the number of plants and utilization of cow dung for domestic purposes leads to degradation in fertility of soil. It has resulted in the necessary need to get some other alternatives as domestic fuel and for the better future. The continuous depletion of sources put the emphasis over the use of non-conventional sources of energy in the domestic, commercial and rural areas. We shall have to depend on the non-conventional sources of energy more and more in future.

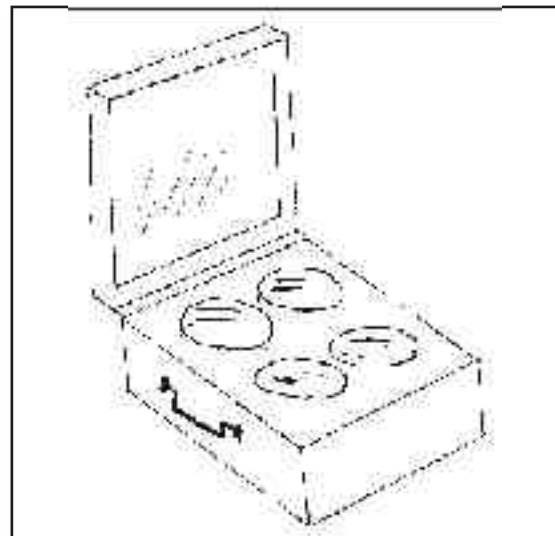
The question is how we can complete or fulfill the increasing demands of energy and from where we can get

the energy? Conventional souces like coal, oil, gas and wood have been consumed by us, what all is left is being getting harm day by day. In this prevailing condition we have got an alternative for the energy i.e. the non-conventional sources are sun, air, water and waste materials. These non-conventional sources are easily available in the rural areas. Panchayats can help the rural people, get the sources easily available to them. We can discuss in brief about the non-conventional sources of energy.

Solar energy : Sun is the non-degradable source of energy; source of light and heat, and we need not to pay any cost to get the sunlight. You will be amazed to know that 90% of the total Sunlight gets wasted. Whole amount of energy consumed on the earth is 1/20 of the total sin light. The energy provided by the sun is non comparable.

Solar energy holds great promise for rural communities. Rural populations are not able to afford the access of electricity and fossil fuels. They can utilize the solar energy for the domestic applications, such as crop drying, food cooking, and water heating, lightening through the solar energy reduces the energy consumption up to 33%.

Solar energy is utilized for the drying of various crops, using direct sunlight. It is most ancient and widespread. This technique is used for drying of agricultural material. This process is the best for drying the soft fruits, which are more vulnerable to the attack of insects. Solar heating to



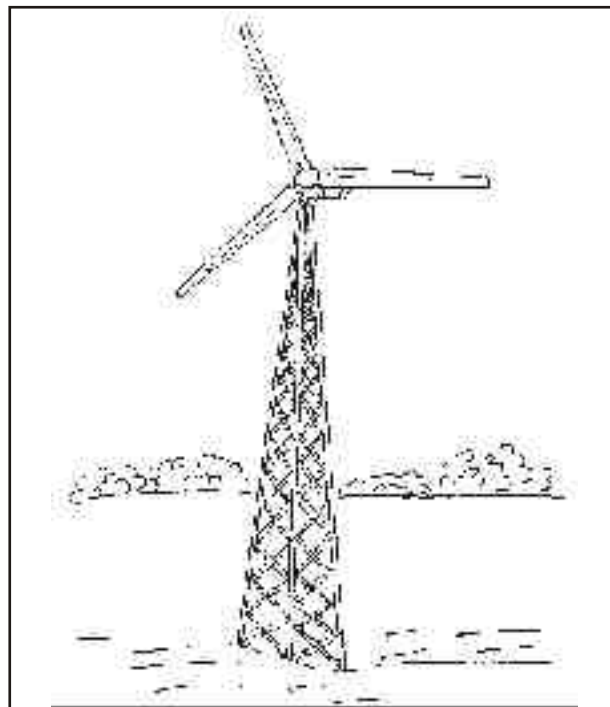
get the hot water is the ancient practices based on the common phenomenon of collection of cold water in the containers and expose them to the sunlight. Solar heaters helps to provide hot water supply to make rural health clinics and school sanitary and for domestic supply it can be operated in almost any climate. No requirement for maintenance.

Solar energy can be used to prepare the food without utilizing the fuel. It is the affordable and effective cooking method because it does not involve generation of smoke and does not causes the harm to the health of the persons living in the particular area. Solar cooker is the mode of utilization of the solar energy as per the requirements. It does not require any kind of technical skills to operate the solar cooker. It is safe and convenient for use. It saves electricity and gas. It is suitable for the rural cooking.

In the rural area, electricity is not sufficiently available at the cheaper rates for the rural people. Approximately 75% of the people reside in rural areas. They are not having enough money to afford the expenses of electricity. To overcome this problem solar lanterns have come in to use. These helps to get light at very low cost. It is not very expensive, easily affordable and easy to use and eco-friendly in nature. It is the best alternative solution for the kerosene lamps. It never creates smoke, air pollution, eye irritation, coughing etc.

Solar lights are the best for the rural areas. They are mostly used in the villages for the lightening purposes. These lights are used in public places like schools, panchayat ghars, dharamshalas, hospitals and community centers.

Bio Gas : This is the second best non-conventional source of energy, different types of waste products from different sources (cow dung, toilet wastes, garden residues and field residues) are utilized for the purpose of making the natural gas. this gas is utilized for the purpose of cooking, lightening and electricity generation. Bio gas plant generates the manure, which is very good for the fields. It helps to reduce the problem of deforestation. and helps to keep the environment. it does not create the health problems. When biogas is used as fuel it does not create health problems like eye irritation etc. As biogas plant came into existance the people realized the fact that use of cow dung is beneficial for the gas making rather than using it for burning purpose. In the early stages for the first time biogas plant is little expensive. But after installation it is requires little care from economic point of view. Bio gas plant after installation proves good in different ways like no smoke will be generated during food making and utensils will not be getting any kind of carbon black at the bottom. Secondly after the gas generation residue left in the plant can be utilized as manure in the fields and the most important thing the environment will remain pollution free and clean.



Wind Energy : Wind energy is being used since ancient times. Wind energy is the non-exhaustible non-conventional form of energy. In the ancient times the sailors for the boating in the rivers used this energy. In the remote areas where conventional sources are not easily available wind energy can be made available in those areas. Wind energy is used for the purpose of drawing water from the well and for the purpose of electricity generation. Wind energy is the source which is easily available and which does nor create any harm to the environment.

Participation of Panchayat :

Panchayats have started the subsidy schemes for the encouragement of the use of these non-conventional sources of energy in their areas. These schemes are run by the joint efforts of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Sources and the State Governments. At the State level the rural encouragement of the Non-Conventional Sources is the main aim of the Govt. agencies.

It has been estimated that 50% of the total consumed energy is from the domestic areas. In the rural areas wood, field residues and animal axcreta etc. are used as the source of energy, which create problem of pollution. To reduce the percentage of such activities, panchayats have started the schemes like biogas, plant, solar cooker, solar heaters, windmills etc. so that villagers can utilize the non-conventional, less expensive, non exhaustible sources of energy in place of conventional, highly expensive, exhaustible sources of energy. This kind of effort will help in the rural fvelopment and help to create a pollution free clean environment.

Panchayats can arrange the programmes to make people aware about the changes happening in surrounding.

- ❑ Panchayats can arrange the small workshops regarding the use of solar energy for the domestic, commercial and economic purposes.
- ❑ Panchayats can take the help of the teachers from the secondary and senior secondary schools to make students aware of the applications of Non-Conventional Sources energy.
- ❑ Exhibitions of workings models of equipments run by Non-Conventional Sources of energy to get the people familiar with the working of the particular equipments.
- ❑ If the villagers are not able to set up their own systems for use of Non-Conventional Sources of Energy.

- ❑ Panchayat can arrange loans and funds for the setting up of such systems at low interest rates, for use at community level, as also for the rural people.
- ❑ Local Panchayat can take the help of higher authorities to sort out the problems regarding the funds, site for the set up and other related issues.
- ❑ Panchayat can take the help of NGO's, social workers to get the information regarding the benefits of the rural people and rural development.

We can conclude that use of the non-conventional source of energy is beneficial for the whole community. We have to encourage the use of these sources of energy so that environment remains clean and hygienic, and also for living healthy and sound life in the clean environment.



WIND ENERGY

by Aarti Kaushik , Project Associate, IES

Highlights

- ❑ India is the fifth largest wind power producer in the world after Germany, the USA, Denmark and the UK, with a wind power generation capacity of 1,267 MW, of which 1,210 MW has come through commercial projects
- ❑ The wind energy potential in India has been estimated at 45,000 MW
- ❑ Wind is one of the largest resource in the country based on mean annual wind power density (MAWPD). The Wind Resource Assessment Programme (WRAP) carried out in India to reassess the wind potential was one of the largest programmes of this kind in the world covering around 900 wind monitoring and mapping stations in 24 states and union territories. This programme is being implemented by the state nodal agencies (SNAs) and C-WET through the Wind Energy Survey Project WRAP has so far identified 192 potential sites in 13 states.
- ❑ States with high wind power potential are Tamil Nadu, Gujrat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madya Pradesh adn Maharashtra. About .5 billion units of electricity have been fed to various state grids from wind power projects. Almost 80% of the

power thus generated has been used for captive consumption, and the rest sold to the grid or to a third party.

- ❑ Some 26 project sites have been developed in the high potential states under the Demonstration Programme, resulting in a capacity of 57 MW.
- ❑ At least 15 domestic companies are manufacturing wind power turbines and components, either in joint venture or license production from international collaborators, achieving an annual turnover of Rs. 1,500 crore. Wind electric generators ranging from 55 to 750 kW rating have been developed and manufactured in the country by using the latest technologies.
- ❑ Sate-of-the art wind power technology are now indigenously available in India. An annual production capacity of 500 MW has been established. Wind electric generators up to 750 kW unit capacity are now being manufactured. Blades, a crucial component of wind turbines, is manufactured in India. Nearly 80 per cent indigenisation has been achieved.
- ❑ R & D activities have been undertaken through research institutions, laboratories, technical centres.



Continued from Page 7

Conclusion

In a nutshell, the large-scale utilization of biogas, in a village can improve the women's lifestyle and their standard of living, To those women who feel acutely the misery of cooking on smoky chullhas and are looking for

relief, biogas technology brings a message of hope.

Since last few years, we have been engaged in exploring opportunities for application of this improved technology. We are hopeful that these efforts will bring significant gains to our entire society including disadvantaged sections of our rural population.



SOCIAL FORESTRY AND ITS EFFECT ON ENVIRONMENT

by **Rumita Chowdhury**, Project Associate, IES

In the past, there used to be small village forests attached to most villages or groups of villages. These village forests were not classified as "cultivable wasteland". The village forest used to meet the requirement of the villagers in respect of fuel wood, small timber, grass, fruit, seeds, gum etc. But later on due to growth in population many village forests were cleared and the land were used for planting food crops. The gradual disappearance of village forest from the countryside was also due to over-exploitation for industrial woods, the increased need of fuel wood and excessive grazing. The section of village population, which used to depend for their livelihood on the village forests by collecting and selling fuel wood, lost its source of sustenance. In the wake of the disappearance of village forest, the entire pressure shifted the reserved and other forests controlled by the forest department causing their degradation.

The fast rate of deforestation has led to several repercussions. Environmental condition is fastly deteriorating and the climate seems to be undergoing a change. Due to all these problems Social Forestry became highlighted.

Characteristics of Social Forestry are Given Below

- ❑ Social forestry is for the people & by the people. In Social Forestry, the people are the direct & indirect beneficiaries. It cannot develop without full participation of the people.
- ❑ It is forestry on a small scale. It is an undertaking by an individual, a household, and a group of households or a community. It is therefore limited in scope scale as production inputs are limited in the hands of these entrepreneurs.
- ❑ The species have to be fast growing, early maturing & with multipurpose yields such as small dimensions timber & poles, fencing, fuel; wood, leaves for fodder & organic fertilizer and flowers & fruits for food as the poor community cannot wait for a long time period for reaping the benefits/harvest from social forestry undertakings.
- ❑ Social forestry range from monocropping with multi use goals (fast growing tree species for fuel wood, poles or fodder) on one end to multiple or integrated cropping system for the multiplicity of uses (tree integrated with food crops) for wood, food, fodder & green mature production on the other.



- ❑ In social forestry villagers/community/Panchayat take the prime initiative of planning and managing their projects, consequently they bear all the cost, take all the risk, but also reap all the benefits for themselves.

Objective of Social Forestry

- ❑ To fulfill fodder, fuel wood & small timber demands.
- ❑ To provide employment opportunities & to increase family income considerably.
- ❑ To tap dormant energies & forestry skills of the villagers.
- ❑ To popularize economic tree farming along with crop-farming.
- ❑ To integrate economic gains in distribution of benefits to the left-behind people.
- ❑ To conserve the natural habitat.
- ❑ To prevent soil erosion and maintain the fertility of the soil.

Activities to be undertaken under Social Forestry

A variety of tree planting and allied activities are included under social forestry. These can be classified as follows:

- ❑ **Nursery production and management** : It is necessary to have large network of small decentralized nurseries close to the plantation sites to avoid long transportation distances, with attendant damage and morality. The nurseries have to supply planting stock not only for plantations being raised under the project by the social forestry organization, but they have to meet the demands of the farmers under the farm forestry component.
- ❑ **Supportive activities** : activities like Extension, Training, Research and Publicity should be organized.

- ❑ **Selection of plant species :** Caution must be taken while selecting the plant species under social forestry. Only those plant species should be selected which grows very fast and which does not affect the crop cultivation of the surrounding area.
- ❑ **Awareness programme for Community participation :** Awareness programmes should be organized for the community participation. Social forestry cannot be successful without proper community participation.
- ❑ **Dissemination of information by Panchayats :** Panchayat can disseminate the information regarding the various species of plants that can be planted in the area. It can also undertake many activities like helping the villagers in developing plant nurseries, selection of species and proper distribution of the benefits acquired through social forestry.

Social Forestry Programmes

Social forestry programs can be :-

- a) Individual beneficiary oriented.
 - b) Community beneficiary oriented.
- These social forestry programmes are being implemented through the Forest Department in various states.
- a) **Individual beneficiary oriented schemes :** It includes farm forestry, social security through plantations, tree cultivation, planting trees around tribal hut.
 - b) **Community beneficiaries oriented schemes :** This includes raising of wood lots, strip plantation, and school nurseries.

Positive impacts of Social Forestry on environment

- ❑ Increase in the total forest cover, bio-diversity and other environmental services provided by the forest.
- ❑ Improvement in the Environmental condition which helps to make the environment pollution free when mass felling of trees is going on.
- ❑ Improvement in the stock of forest and those of wanted species.
- ❑ Decrease in the rate of soil erosion, which helps in maintaining the fertility of the soil.
- ❑ Reduction in the evaporation loss due to the falling of leaves which acts as green mulch.
- ❑ Improvement in the economic environment of the village communities, which benefits from the Non-timber Forest Products (NTFP) as that contributes in generating between 10-25% of the total income of the poor community.

While selecting the species of the plants, it should be kept in mind that it does not have any ill effects on the

surrounding crops. The method of plantation should be very scientific. Thus, while practicing social forestry, it should be kept in mind that its negative impacts on environment is minimum and the positive impacts are maximum, then only it can achieve its goal.

Role of Panchayat regarding social forestry

Panchayat can play an active role in successful implementation of social forestry. It can chalk out the plans and can co-ordinate it. The proper awareness among the village/community can only be done with the help of Panchayat. Various ways in which the Panchayat can help in the success of social forestry are :

- a. Panchayat can make the villagers understand the role of social forestry, as they are fully trusted by the villagers.
- b. It can help the villagers to open their own nurseries and they can have an extra source of income.
- c. Panchayat can disseminate knowledge among the villagers after consulting the experts regarding the various extinct species of the plant, which can be grown in that area.
- d. Panchayat can provide the knowledge to the villagers regarding the various fast growing species after consulting the experts.
- e. With the help of Panchayats the degradation of forest can be stopped and a new era of clean environment can be started from the interiors of India.
- f. Panchayat can see to it that the benefits acquired through social forestry are distributed among the community members equally.
- g. It can protect the surrounding land of the village, where plantation has taken place, from over-grazing.
- h. It can make a group of young members of the village, to look after the work going under social forestry and then collect report from them.

Conclusion

At the end it can be concluded that social forestry is a remedy of the deteriorating Environmental conditions. It also aims at increasing the income of the poor families and giving them a supporting hand in their income generation. It should be kept in mind while practicing social forestry that the method adopted should be very scientific and eco-friendly. Only those species should be selected for plantation, which grows very fast and doesn't have any ill effect on the surrounding environment. Thus it can be said that if the social forestry is practiced with proper planning then it becomes a boon to the environment. The Panchayats are providing the supportive hands to enhance the social forestry practices in the rural areas for the upgradation of the environment and lives of the villagers.



From the Print Media

Meet to focus on Widening rural prosperity*The Hindu, Monday, June 28, 2004*

“Declaration war on poverty” will be the underlying theme of the two-day Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj to be inaugurated here by the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, on June 29.

Announcing this at a joint press conference here on Saturday, the Minister for Rural Development, Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, and the Minister for Panchayati Raj, Mani Shankar Aiyer, said the theme of the conference would be “Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj.” The conference was being organised as the “first major step” towards attaining the aim of “deepening and widening rural prosperity,” which is one of the major goals cited in the Common Minimum Programme of the United Progressive Alliance.

Mr. Singh said the conference was organised to ascertain the views and difficulties of the States to smoothen the implementation process as well as to restructure the policies and programme in accordance with the CMP. The States have a major role in implementing and monitoring poverty alleviation programmes,” he said.

Stressing on the optimum utilisation of funds allocated for the existing programmes, Mr. Singh said the mandatory reduction in poverty ratio by five percentage points during the 10th Plan and another 10 per cent during the 11th Plan would still leave more than 11 per cent population – about 130 million people – below the poverty line in 2012.

The conference would also discuss how best safe drinking water, sanitation, mid-day meal, employment

opportunities and infrastructure could be provided in rural areas. “There can be no real development unless every rural household is provided safe drinking water and proper sanitation.”

Admitting that the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) were yet to fully involve into effective institutions of self-government, Mr. Aiyer said the conference would consider the issue relating to the integration of economic reforms with institutional reforms in villages to realise Gandhiji's dream of “Poorna Swaraj” through “Gram Swaraj” as given constitutional shape and sanction by the late Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

Asked how best villages could prosper in the light of market economy taking empowerment that you get entitlement and it is through entitlement that you get enrichment.”

With much speculation on how the “bifurcated” Ministry for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj would function, he said the UPA Government had created a separate-Ministry for PRIs as the previous BJP-led NDA administration did not take steps for effective devolution of funds and power to PRIs. “Mr. Singh and I will work in tandem in the task of nation building. He will hold the purse strings, while we ensure that panchayat institutions function well.”

To a question, Mr. Aiyer said that almost all the States, except Pondicherry and Jharkhand, had held elections to the PRIs in accordance with the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment. As for the differences in the interpretation of the provisions of the Panchayati Raj Act, he said the Supreme Court was already engaged in harmonising the jurisprudence in this regard. □□□

‘Rural area will be better medical care’*The Hindustan Times, Monday, June 28, 2004*

The Centre will concentrate on rural areas as far as providing good medical facilities was concerned. Minister of state for external affairs and MP Rao Inderjit Singh said villages were a priority for his government as majority of the population lives here.

Speaking at the fifth annual day celebration of Dr. S.S. Yadav Ram-Bhagwan Charitable Institute of Cancer Management and Research here, Singh said it was unfortunate that Rewari, Mahendergarh, Narnaul, Gurgaon, Jhajjar and the southern part of Haryana are

still the most backward areas in the state in respect of medical facilities.

There will be a three-fold raise in the allotment of funds for health care in the Union Budget this year, the minister said. If the Congress comes to power in Haryana, the party would ensure that the disparity in the state is done away with, Singh added.

In his welcome address, chairman of the trust Dr. S.S. Yadav rued that no serious attempt has been made

समाचार पत्रों से

पंचायती राज बने विकास का इंजन : मनमोहन

नवभारत टाइम्स, 30 जून 2004

प्रधानमंत्री डॉ. मनमोहन सिंह ने मंगलवार को राज्यों के मुख्यमंत्रियों को आह्वान किया कि वे पंचायती राज संस्थाओं को अधिकार और संसाधन संपन्न बनाकर देश में लोकतंत्र और समृद्धि के विकेंद्रीकरण के अग्रदूत बनें।

प्रधानमंत्री यहां ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय और पंचायती राज मंत्रालय द्वारा 'पंचायती राज के माध्यम से गरीबी उन्मूलन और ग्रामीण समृद्धि' विषय पर आयोजित राज्यों के मुख्यमंत्रियों, ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रियों, पंचायती राज और पेयजल आपूर्ति मंत्रियों के दो दिन के सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन कर रहे थे। उन्होंने राज्यों से आग्रह किया कि वे पंचायती राज संस्थाओं के सशक्तीकरण के जरिए ग्रामीण भारत में उत्पादक रोजगार मुहैया कराने, आमदनी बढ़ाने और गरीबी हटाने में केंद्र के साथ मिलजुल कर काम करें।

सिंह ने कहा—हमें उन क्षेत्रों की समीक्षा करनी चाहिए, जहां आज पंचायतों को किनारे कर दिया गया है। इसे दुरुस्त किया जाना चाहिए। अब हमारे पास पंचायतों की निचले स्तर की ताकत को आधुनिक सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी से जोड़ने की क्षमता है। इससे सेवा वितरण में तेजी से बदलाव

आ सकता है। हमें इस अवसर का विस्तार करना चाहिए।

मनमोहन ने कहा—हमें कृषि और गैर-कृषि कार्यों, दोनों ही को ग्रामीण विकास का इंजन बनाना होगा। इसके लिए ऊर्जा और विद्युत के विकेंद्रीकृत उत्पादन पर भी पूरा ध्यान दिया जाना आवश्यक है ताकि महात्मा गांधी की विकेंद्रीकृत उत्पादन की बात को आर्थिक विकास का एक ठोस और व्यावहारिक विकल्प बनाया जा सके। उन्होंने कहा कि ग्रामीण व्यापार केंद्र के चीनी मॉडल से सीखने की जरूरत है। इससे ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कृषि उत्पादों का मूल्य बढ़ सकेगा। हमें अपने ग्रामीण विकास कार्यक्रमों की नए सिरे से समीक्षा करनी चाहिए। हम विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में संसाधनों का पूरा नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। उपलब्ध धनराशि नहीं खर्च कर पा रहे हैं और पंचायती राज संस्थानों को प्रभावशाली नहीं बना पा रहे हैं। हालांकि उन्होंने यह भी माना कि नीति में बदलाव संभूत सब बातों से निपटा जा सकता है।

उन्होंने इस बात पर अफसोस जाहिर किया कि ग्रामीण योजनाओं पर हर साल 17 हजार करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए जाते हैं लेकिन उसका पूरा



कृषि के लिए कारपोरेट जगत को साधने में जुटी सरकार

राष्ट्रीय सहारा, 1 जुलाई 2004

यूपीए सरकार कृषि की दशा और दिशा को सुधारने के लिए अब कारपोरेट जगत को साधने की कोशिश कर रही है। इसके लिए कृषि उत्पादों के विपणन से जुड़ी कई बंदिशों को भी सरकार ढीला करने के लिए तैयार है। समन्वित खाद्य कानून बनाने की बात भी सरकार ने मान ली है। सरकार भी मानती है कि अगर कृषि क्षेत्र में कारपोरेट जगत आगे आता है तो वह भी अपना हित साधेगा। पर सरकार का साफ मानना है कि बगैर निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी के कृषि के विकास के लिए ढांचागत सुधार नहीं हो पाएंगे। इनमें भारी निवेश की जरूरत है जो निजी क्षेत्र की मदद से ही हो पायेगा। कृषि सचिव राधा सिंह कई ऐसे कारपोरेट घरानों से कर रही हैं जो कृषि व खाद्य उत्पादों की उपज व विपणन से जुड़े हैं या जुड़ने वाले हैं।

कारपोरेट में जिन अहम भागीदारों से कृषि मंत्रालय की बात हुई है उनमें आईटीसी, महिंद्रा एंड महिंद्रा, एस्कार्ट, युनाइटेड फास्फोरस, डीसीएम श्रीराम, डीएस ग्रुप, गोदरेज, टाटा टी, करगिल इंडिया, हिंदुस्तान लीवर, अल कबीर एक्सपोर्ट्स, इंडाग्रो फूड्स, हिंद एग्रो इंडस्ट्रीज आदि शामिल हैं। सरकार ने कारपोरेट जगत को साफ कह दिया है कि कृषि में विपणन से जुड़ी कई बंदिशों को हटाने के लिए वह तैयार है पर कारपोरेट को कृषि में ढांचागत सुविधाओं में सुधार व बढ़ोतरी के लिए आगे आना होगा। कृषि सचिव राधा सिंह का कहना है कि ढांचागत सुविधाओं में बढ़ोतरी करना अकेले सरकार के बस की बात नहीं है।

कारपोरेट से सरकार की बातचीत में सरकार की तरफ से साफ कर दिया गया है कि निजी क्षेत्र की तरफ से जरूरी गया है कि निजी क्षेत्र की तरफ से जरूरी निवेश की शर्त पर सरकार विपणन बंदिशों को हटाने के लिए तैयार है। इनमें कृषि उत्पाद विपणन समिति (एपीएमसी) कानून में व्यापक सुधार भी शामिल है। इसी कानून के तहत किसानों के लिए अपनी कृषि उत्पाद की अंतरराज्यीय आवाजाही पर भी रोक लगायी गयी है। अब सरकार का मानना है कि इस तरह की बंदिशों से किसानों को फायदा नहीं

हुआ है। अब एपीएमसी कानून में व्यापक सुधार तय है।

नयी सरकार ने कारपोरेट घरानों को यह भी कहा है कि वह अनुबंध खेती (कांटेक्ट फार्मिंग) को बढ़ावा देगी। अभी तक अनुबंध खेती पूरी तरह विश्वास आधारीत ही रही है। किसान से लेकर कंपनी तक कोई नियम कायदे नहीं हैं। सरकार इसे नियम कायदों की जद में लायेगी। इसके बाद करार के मुताबिक किसान को अपनी फसल संबंधित कंपनी को ही बेचनी होगी। इसी तरह कंपनी को करार का पालन करते हुए किसान से उसकी फसल पहले से तय की गयी कीमत पर ही खरीदनी होगी। किसान और कंपनी दोनों के लिए बाध्यकारी व्यवस्था की जानी है। अनुबंध खेती के तहत खेती के लिए जरूरी इनपुट कंपनियों किसानों को मुहैया कराएंगी। बदले में किसान फसल उन्हीं कंपनियों को बेचेंगे।

सरकारी मंडियों को खत्म करने का सरकार का इरादा नहीं है पर इनकी व्यवस्था को दुरुस्त किया जायेगा। कारपोरेट की एक अन्य अहम मांग समन्वित खाद्य कानून है। सरकार ने ऐसा कानून बना देने का भरोसा दिया है। हालांकि कृषि सचिव के अनुसार सरकार ने कारपोरेट के प्रतिनिधियों से साफ कहा है कि वे कृषि में निवेश करें।

सरकार किसानों को एक और तरह से मदद करने पर विचार कर रही है। इसके तहत किसानों को अपनी उपज तुरंत बेचने की बजाय मान्यता प्राप्त वेयरहाउसों में रखने की सुविधा का विस्तार किया जाना है। इस क्षेत्र में एक जो बड़ी कमी पहचानी गयी है वह ग्रेडिंग सुविधा की कमी है। वेयरहाउस में रखे जाने वाले कृषि उत्पादों की किस्म, गुणवत्ता आदि के बारे में ग्रेडिंग सुविधा के अभाव में सुनिश्चितता नहीं रह पाती। अब ग्रेडिंग सुविधा को दुरुस्त किया जायेगा। किसानों को अपनी उपज वेयरहाउस में रखने के बाद उसकी कीमत के आधार पर बैंकों से ऋण की सुविधा देने की व्यवस्था भी की जायेगी। सरकार का मानना है कि निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी के बाद ही कृषि में गुणवत्ता, कीमतों में स्थिरता, और उत्पादकता में बढ़ोतरी हो पायेगी।

Messages



Material and volume of newsletter should be enhanced. We have never come across such a valuable and surprisingly free booklet. Thank you very much.

(Smt. Mohini Devi Vajpai, Panchayat Sadasya, Bareli)



'Panchayat' is a very useful and important magazine. The matter it encompasses is undoubtedly of use for all segments of our society. Thanks for publishing such a wonderful magazine.

(B.S. Kusum, Secretary, Gram Bharati Samitit, Jaipur)



A regular column can be started in the newsletter Panchayat for less known medicinal plants. If asked I can contribute to this column.

(Dr. R. Marimuthu, Periyar University, T.N.)



Although I have read a lot about Tulsi and Neem but in your issue/vol VII No. 1, I have had opportunity to learn more about these invaluable medicinal plants. However, the issue is quite praiseworthy and I request to mail me one copy regularly.

(Sanjay Gupta, Treasurer, Mahanagar Sudhar Samiti, Meerut)



यह अंक जिसमें औषधीय पौधों की उपयोगिता की चर्चा है, सुन्दर बन पड़ा है। लोक कहावतों और लोकोक्तियों में भी औषधीय पौधों की चर्चा मिली।

(डॉ. हरिकृष्ण देवसरे, परामशदाता, विज्ञान प्रसार, नई दिल्ली)



यह पर्यावरण की दिशा में अच्छी पत्रिका है और आज के संदर्भ में नई नई जानकारियों से युक्त है।

(राजेन्द्र प्रसाद शर्मा, लोक सेवा समिति, भरतपुर)



पंचायत पत्रिका मैंने एक संस्थान में देखी। पढ़कर काफी जानकारी मिली। समिति परिवार इस पत्रिका को अपने कार्यालय में मंगवाना चाहिती है। कृपया उक्त पत्रिका को भेजने की अनुकपा करें।

(जनक राज, राजस्थान)



वर्तमान पर्यवेक्ष में पंचायत पत्रिका बहुत ही सामायिक हैं इसके पृष्ठों की संख्या बढ़ाकर विषय विशेषज्ञों के और आलेख प्रकाशित किए जायें।

(कुमार सेवा संस्थान, उन्नाव)

Panchayati Raj & Environment

ENVIS Newsletter

Glimpse of the Website

www.iespanchayat.org

The website has compiled all the relevant data and comprehensive information on different components of Panchayati Raj and Environment. The website contains information on databases developed; geographical distribution of Panchayats; success stories, areas of Panchayati Raj co-operation; elections, finance, query services; bibliography; resource repository etc.

We hope that the information contained in the website will suffice your requirements.

We would appreciate your comments & suggestion about the website so that we can update it as per the requirements of our browsers.

Wish you a Happy browsing on www.iespanchayat.org

The Centre invites for Publications :

- Reports on Panchayati Raj (specially related to environment) and rural development
- Short report on seminars/workshops on the related topics are also invited. Those found suitable will be published in the newsletter.
- Articles for the newsletter "Panchayat" are invited.

Forthcoming Events

- **7th Global Conference on Environmental Education**
Date : September 19-23, 2005, Agra, India

Book Post

Please return, if undelivered :

Indian Environmental Society

U-112 (3rd Floor) Vidhata House

Vikas Marg, Shakarpur

Delhi - 110092 INDIA

Phone: 22450749, 22046823, 22046824 **Fax:** 22523311

E-mail: iesenro@vsnl.com

Website: www.iesglobal.org ● www.iesenvis.nic.in ● www.iespanchayat.org

To _____

ग्रामीण इलाकों को अधिक से अधिक धन मुहैया कराने के उद्देश्य से योजना आयोग ने कहा है कि वह स्थानीय स्तर पर सीधे धन मुहैया कराने की संभावनाएं तलाश कर रहा है। योजना आयोग के उपाध्यक्ष मोंटेक सिंह अहलूवालिया ने कहा कि मध्यावधि योजना समीक्षा के तहत ऐसा किया जाएगा।

अहलूवालिया ने कहा कि योजना राशि में बदलाव एक विकल्प है ताकि केन्द्र के धन को सीधे जिलों को मुहैया कराया जा सके। योजना आयोग में हम इस पर विचार कर रहे हैं। यह सुनिश्चित करना आवश्यक है कि धन सीधे जिला और पंचायत स्तर पर प्राप्त हो। योजना व्यय के लिए हालांकि 10 हजार करोड़ रुपये का अतिरिक्त आवंटन किया गया है,

लेकिन एक नजरिया यह भी है कि मौजूदा प्रायोजित योजनाओं में व्यय परिलक्षित नहीं हो रहा है और उनके प्रभावशाली होने पर गंभीर सवाल उठ रहे हैं। योजना आयोग इन योजनाओं की समीक्षा करेगा और 'हमारे पास जो विकल्प हैं, उनमें ये बातें शामिल हैं कि योजनाओं की पुनर्रचना की जाए या फिर धन सीधे स्थानीय संस्थाओं को मुहैया कराया जाए।'

उन्होंने कहा कि लघु उद्योगों से रोजगार को बढ़ावा मिलेगा और इसलिए इन उद्योगों को अनुकूल वित्तीय प्रणाली मुहैया कराने की आवश्यकता है। सरकार के न्यूनतम साझा कार्यक्रम में भी इस बात का उल्लेख है और प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह भी घोषणा कर चुके हैं कि धन सीधे जमीनी स्तर तक पहुंचना चाहिए। हम विभिन्न मंत्रालयों से बात