



CSIR IN MEDIA

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Waste-to-wealth model to process banana waste

CSIR-CFTRI

The city-based Central Food Technological Research Institute has developed a waste-to-wealth model for banana cultivators, allowing them to convert waste into organic manure.

According to CFTRI director Ram Rajasekharan, it has been demonstrated with active participation of farmers at the institute. The institute stepped in following banana cultivators' concerns of waste generated every harvest season.

The CFTRI proposed a waste-to-wealth model wherein waste generated in fields could be used for fibre extraction, stem juice production using CFTRI technologies and for vermi-composting. This model completes the sustainability cycle by bringing income to farmers, he said.

The model was demonstrated during a workshop involving banana farmers, processors and market players last week. The meet was intended to create a robust market value chain and to improve sustainability of farming, the director said. He shared an innovation roadmap for banana stem juice for sports beverage industries and possible products that can be made from banana fibre.

Banana farmers in the Hadinaru region in Nanjangud taluk voiced their concern about waste generated during cultivation. Approximately 30 tonnes of waste were generated per acre in one crop season from the stem alone. To add commercial value to waste, students of the institute interacted with farmers of Hadinaru followed by the CFTRI proposal to convert waste into manure.

Fibre extracted from the stem can be blended easily with cotton fibre or other synthetic fibres to produce blended fabric and textiles. It's mainly used by the cottage industry in southern India. Banana fibre also finds use in high-quality currency paper, packing cloth for agriculture produce, ship-towing ropes, etc. The juice extracted from the stem has many medicinal benefits. The proposed model is expected to give substantial income per acre from banana stem waste with little capital investment, Ram said.

The CFTRI experimented with the model involving farmers and got 2 tonnes of waste stem to the institute where it did fibre extraction, stem juice and produced bio-compost.

Farmer groups, buyers and processors along with officials of Nabard and CFTRI technologists attended the workshop. The institute said it'll work on establishing semi-processing units through farmers and SHGs with the support of the government and other agencies, transfer of technology to agri-enterprises, training and creating a network among them for good returns to farmers and growers.

Nabard AGM N Aravamudhan shared information on schemes and subsidies available to farmers from the rural bank.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mysuru/Waste-to-wealth-model-to-process-banana-waste/articleshow/53072200.cms>

TNN | Jul 6, 2016

'Nutrition-rich' ice-cream launched

CSIR-CFTRI

An ice-cream rich in Omega-3 fat and Vitamin E was launched here on Tuesday. It is an initiative of the CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Oleome Biosolutions, Bengaluru, and Dairy Classic Ice Creams.

Niti Ayog CEO Amitabh Kanth launched 'NutriIce Creams' on the CFTRI campus in the presence of CFTRI Director Ram Rajashekar and Balaraju, director, Dairy Ice Creams. It has been developed using Chia seeds, having the highest content of Omega-3 fat from a vegetarian source.

Prof. Ram Rajashekar told The Hindu that CFTRI played the role of a facilitator bringing farmers, scientists and entrepreneurs on a common platform and develop this 'special' product. CFTRI has developed agro technology for Chia and has shared the seeds to farmers from across the nation.

The commercial launch of the ice-cream is expected in the next couple of months, said Mr. Balaraju.



Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, New Delhi releasing "Nutrilce Cream" at CFTRI in Mysuru on Tuesday.

Ram Rajashekar Director of CFTRI, and Balaraju, Director, Dairy Day Ice Cream, are present

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/nutritionrich-icecream-launched/article8811284.ece>

July 5, 2016

Cane crop insurance a possibility: NITI Aayog CEO

CSIR-CFTRI

But he says water consumption in sugarcane production will have to be reduced progressively

Amitabh Kant, chief executive officer of NITI Aayog, has assured farmers of bringing more crops under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), including commercial crops such as sugarcane. But there is a rider — the quantum of water consumed in sugarcane cultivation will have to be reduced.

He was speaking at a State-level farmers' convention organised by the Karnataka State Sugarcane Cultivators' Association and the Federation of Farmers' Associations, here on Tuesday.

Responding to the farmers' demand of including sugarcane under PMFBY, Mr. Kant said he would discuss the issue with officials of the Ministry of Agriculture on a priority basis. However, he said sugarcane can be brought under the purview of PMFBY only if there is progressive decline in water usage.

Association president Kurubur Shanthakumar said 30 per cent of the sugarcane cultivators in the State have already switched to drip irrigation. He promised that this number would increase to 75 per cent over the next two years.



Amitabh Kant, CEO of NITI Aayog, addressing farmers at a conference on agriculture in Mysuru on Tuesday.— PHOTO: M.A. SRIRAM

Mr. Kant responded that the government would extend all assistance to adopt new technology to conserve water. Banana cultivation and sericulture too would be considered for the crop insurance scheme, he added.

Attributing poor output to lack of access to modern technology and faulty inputs, Mr. Kant said the issue of poor remunerative prices given to farmers will have to be addressed.

Apart from over 400 farmers from across the State, Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) director Ram, Karnataka Agricultural Prices Commission chairman Prakash Kammaradi and others were present.

Kant says banana cultivation and sericulture too would be considered for the insurance scheme

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/cane-crop-insurance-a-possibility-niti-aayog-ceo/article8814112.ece>

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT | July 6, 2016

More crops likely to be brought under crop insurance

CSIR-CFTRI

Government is planning to offer private companies the flexibility to use domestic coal to bring down cost of electricity generation in the next 3-4 months, Power Minister Piyush Goyal today said

The NITI Aayog chief executive officer Amitabh Kant has assured farmers of bringing more crops under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), including commercial crops like sugarcane. But he set a rider that this would be possible if the quantum of water consumed was reduced in sugarcane cultivation.

He was speaking at the State-level farmers' convention organised by the Karnataka State Sugarcane Cultivators' Association and Federation of Farmers here on Tuesday.

Responding to the farmers' demand of including sugarcane under the PMFBY, Mr. Kant said he would discuss the issue with the officials concerned in the Ministry of Agriculture on a priority basis. However, he added that sugarcane can be brought under the purview of the scheme provided there was a progressive decline in the use of water in cultivation of the crop.

Association president Kurubur Shanthakumar pointed out that 30 per cent of the sugarcane cultivators in the state had already switched to drip irrigation and promised to increase this to 75 per cent within the next two years. The NITI Aayog chief said that the government would extend all assistance to them in their efforts to adapt to new technology to conserve water. Banana cultivation and sericulture would also be considered for the crop insurance scheme under the PMFBY, he added.



Amitabh Kant, chief executive officer of Niti Aayog, addressing farmers at the conference on agriculture in Mysuru on Tuesday.
Photo: M.A. Sriram

Mr. Kant said transformation of India was not possible without transforming agriculture which was the most important sector of India, employing 49 per cent of the working population. He said there were challenges in agriculture with the output per hectare being low compared to other countries.

He attributed this to poor access to modern technology and faulty inputs while there were issues of poor remunerative prices to farmers. He said farming should be a viable commercial activity if India was to grow 9 to 10 per cent per annum for 3 decades and create jobs and this called for greater levels of efficiency in agriculture.

More than 400 farmers from across the State, Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) Director Ram Rajashekar and others were present.

Earlier, the farmers submitted a memorandum to Mr. Kant drawing his attention to the crisis plaguing sugarcane cultivators and wanted the fair and remunerative price to be increased from Rs. 2,300 to Rs. 3,000, apart from revoking the state government VAT on fertilizers.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/more-crops-likely-to-be-brought-under-crop-insurance/article8811133.ece>

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT | July 4, 2016

‘Keen to work with CFTRI’

CSIR-CFTRI

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog is keen to work with the Central Food Technological Research Institute to address nutritional deficiencies in the midday meal programme, its CEO Amitabh Kant said on Tuesday.

He suggested that CFTRI conduct more research for improving the nutritional value in meals provided under the flagship programme. About 39.5 per cent of the children in the country suffer from nutritional deficiencies, he said. He was speaking after launching ‘NutriIce Cream’, an ice-cream rich in Omega-3 fat and Vitamin E, at CFTRI here.

CFTRI has grand plans of developing diversified diets for ensuring nutritional security, and Chia, a super-food, is being developed as one such alternative. The institute is doing research on improving nutritional value using Chia as the base.

Mr. Kant said NITI Aayog would be happy to work with the scientists on this. He added that much of the research on this matter is not commercialised.

Encouraging the establishment of startups, he asked students of CFTRI to take risks and turn entrepreneurs. Instead of being job-seekers, become job creators, he said.

Meanwhile, CFTRI director Ram Rajashekar said the institute proposes to add nutrition security through super-foods like Chia and Quinoa. Chia is the richest vegetarian source of Omega-3 fatty acids, while Quinoa has quality carbohydrate with low glycemic load and comprehensive protein contents. “These super-foods have found their way into the Indian plate due to our farmers,” he said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/keen-to-work-with-cftri/article8814124.ece>

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