

Environment and Health Public Lecture Series



Toxics Link

Bio Fuel: An alarm bell on food security?

The concept of bio-fuel is fast gaining popularity, as the world tries to become progressively environment - friendly. Worldwide awareness about green house gas emissions, global warming as well as the spiraling oil prices pushes us to seek for alternate energy sources. Experts claim bio-fuel to be the only way out. Conversely this will stake a claim on the food stock of the world.

The ever-growing food prices and the food related riots reported from countries like Haiti and Egypt indicate that the situation has already gone from bad to worse. Still more and more land has been converted for bio- fuel cultivation instead of food and million of tones of corn; sugar cane and soya are getting converted to fuel leaving millions to starve.

In India too, cultivation of Jatropha spreads to fertile land, which were earlier, used for food grains. To meet the target of reducing fossil fuel consumption of about 20% by 2011, 98 million acres of land is being used for Jatropha cultivation.

Is bio-fuel playing such havoc on the food security of the world? Can bio-fuel replace the fossil fuel completely and save our planet from global warming and further disasters?

Panelists:

- ▲ **V. Rahguraman**, Principal Adviser, Energy & Environment, CII
- ▲ **Shalini Bhuttani**, Regional Programme Officer, GRAIN
- ▲ **Dr. Ramesh Singh Chouhan**, Bio- fuel expert, Dragon EXIM India Pvt. Ltd.

Moderated by **Ravi Agarwal**, Director, Toxics Link

Date : 23rd May 2008, Friday **Time**: 6:30 p.m.

Venue : Conference Room I, India International Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. *(In collaboration with India International Centre)*

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