

IIT-I plans to recycle food waste into compost, biofuel

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Indore: Taking a step towards achieving sustainable waste management goal, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indore is mulling over recycling food waste into compost and biofuel.

The institute generates around 1,000 kg of food waste in the campus every day and this waste will be converted into manure that will be used in the campus for gardening

SWACHH MOVE

while the bio gas will be used in the institute's laboratory, said an assistant professor from IIT on the sidelines of the conclave on sustainable waste management.

Dr Ashootosh Mandpe, assistant professor, department of Civil Engineering, IIT-I said, "We generate about a ton of organic waste in our campus, this includes cooked food and vegetable waste. The plan is to develop a sustainable waste management strategy that includes segregating organic waste and converting it into

biogas and compost."

"In a preliminary lab study, 312 ml biogas/gm VS was obtained in a BMP bottle study and now we are planning to perform this study in a lab-based reactor. This successful initial experiment lays the groundwork for a broader application of biofuel production as part of their long-term waste management plan," he said.

Mandpe as a participant in the sustainable waste management organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) spoke about linear and circular economy.

IIT-I generates around 500-700 kg of cooked food waste and 300-400 kg of vegetable waste every day. This food waste includes leftover food, vegetables, fruits, egg shells, meat and fish among other items.

"We have started the mapping of food waste generated in the campus like from canteen, apartments and from other places. Besides, we have shops running in the campus that also generates food waste, so that is also being mapped for coming up with a sustainable plan for waste management," said Mandpe.

New course to handhold agri entrepreneurs

Indore: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore in collaboration with Chaudhary Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur, has rolled out a programme to handhold agriculture entrepreneurs in adopting advanced technology and address local challenges.

The institutes have been associated to address challenges like uncertainties in weather predictions, land constraints, crop yield management, supply chain and need for modern technologies.

A 3-day Agricultural Entrepreneurship Development Training Program was hosted at IIT-I starting Thursday. The program is designed to foster interaction among participants from different sectors, focusing on technology, entrepreneurship, and agriculture so as to address challenges in agriculture.

Professor Suhas Joshi, director, IIT Indore said, "The importance of agriculture in India's economic and social fabric is known to all and is a significant contributor to the GDP of the nation. It is high time that we address the real problems faced by the farmers through technological innovations which should be available at an affordable price to them." "We should focus on sustainable business models for the benefit of farmers and society. Through this program we aim to empower participants with knowledge and insights into modern agricultural practices and entrepreneurship," he said. The event included sessions on the untapped potential of Agri-tech, overview of Intellectual Property Rights and Management, entrepreneurship for small farmers, understanding markets in India, agricultural innovation and biological inputs for soil health. The program will also feature a field visit to ICAR-Indian Institute of Soybean Research. TNN

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