

CSIR IN MEDIA



CSIR

NEWS BULLETIN

16 TO 20 OCTOBER 2020



Heeng will now be cultivated in India for first time in cold-dry Himachal district

CSIR-IHBT



There's hardly any Indian kitchen that doesn't use heeng or asafoetida. But, until now, the bulk of this important condiment was imported because it was not grown in India. That is about to change. The CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur, has started cultivating heeng for the first time in the state as well as in the country.

Why India was not growing heeng?

Speaking on the subject, Dr Shekhar Mande, Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Delhi explained, "We began research on growing heeng locally since 2016. Heeng can only grow in very cold and certain geo-climatic regions such as Ladakh

20th October, 2020 and Lahaul-Spiti. Before this, it was only being imported from countries like Afghanistan and Iran." Dr Sanjay Kumar, director of the institute, initiated the programme by planting heeng seedlings at Kwaring village in Lahaul and Spiti, a cold-dry district of Himachal Pradesh.

How much heeng do Indians consume?

Dr Sanjay Kumar said, "The consumption of heeng is the highest in our country but it is still not produced in India. We are completely dependent on other nations for supply. About 1,200 metric tonnes of raw heeng worth Rs 600 crore is being imported from Afghanistan, Iran, Uzbekistan." "We have planted the saplings in about 5 hectares of land in Himachal Pradesh and we plan to scale up the production of heeng to planting it in at least 300 hectares of land in the next three years," said Dr Mande. India consumes about 40 per cent of the world's production of heeng. Using funds provided by the state government to the tune of Rs 4 crore, IHBT has set up a tissue culture lab that can quickly grow lakhs of saplings.

How will heeng be grown in India?

Since asafoetida is a major condiment in Indian cuisines, team CSIR-IHBT made relentless efforts for introduction of this important crop in the country. The institute introduced six accessions of seeds from Iran through ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR), New Delhi in October 2018.

ICAR-NBPGR confirmed that in the past 30 years, this has been the first attempt for introduction of asafoetida (*ferula assa-foetida*) seeds in the country. CSIR-IHBT raised the plants of heeng at CeHAB, Ribling, Lahaul Spiti, under the vigil of NBPGR.

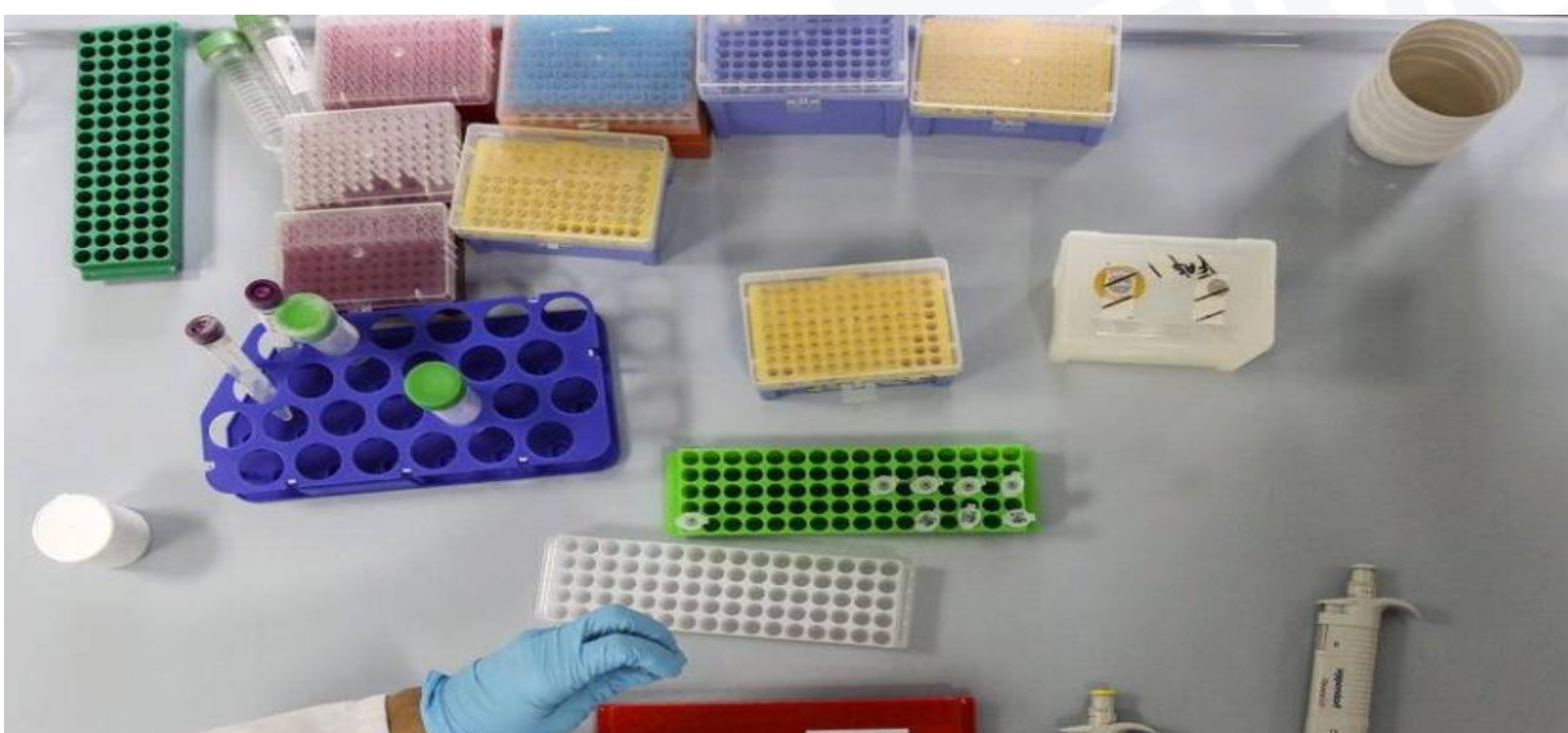
The plant prefers cold and dry conditions for its growth and takes approximately five years for the production of oleo-gum resin in its roots, therefore, cold desert areas of Indian Himalayan region are suitable for cultivation of asafoetida.

Asafoetida is one of the top condiments and is a high-value spice crop in India. Lack of planting material of *ferula assa-foetida* plants in India was a major bottleneck in the cultivation of this crop.

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[India Today](#)

Coronavirus | Feluda test to be commercially available by month-end: CSIR Director General

CSIR-IGIB



Once the viral RNA is extracted, it takes 45 minutes to an hour to confirm presence of the virus

The Feluda test, a coronavirus detection test developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and to be commercialised by Tata Sons, will be commercially available in laboratories this month. “It should be available anytime soon this month. All the formalities are completed,” Shekhar Mande, Director General, CSIR, told *The Hindu*. The test, which still requires a nasal swab to be collected and sent to a lab, promises to be quicker than the gold-standard test because it doesn’t need the expensive RT-PCR (Reverse transcription-quantitative polymerase chain reaction) machine that

20th October, 2020

can set back a lab by at least ₹25 lakh.

A smaller, cheaper more portable machine called a thermocycler, which costs around ₹25,000, is employed and once the viral RNA is extracted, it takes anywhere from 45 minutes to an hour to confirm presence of the virus. FELUDA, that stands for FNCAS9 Editor-Limited Uniform Detection Assay, is also unlike antigen tests in that it uses a CRISPR-cas9 based system and therefore more accurate in detecting the virus. CRISPR-cas9 is a genome-editing tool whose discovery won the Nobel Prize for chemistry this year. Though initially conceived to treat sickle-cell disease, in the FELUDA the cas9 enzyme, it can be used to hone in on a specific sequence of DNA (in this case unique to the coronavirus) and thereby infer its presence. Compared to the RT-PCR test, it’s reportedly cheaper — about ₹500 per test compared to ₹1,200-₹1,600 for RT-PCR, according to current estimates though that would be known only once it’s commercially available in laboratories later this month. A major factor that determines how quickly labs are able to process tests is in how quickly they are able to extract viral RNA.

There are varying approaches and good labs with trained personnel can do the job within 15 minutes but can be a complex process in places with limited facilities. While a paper-based test might resemble the home-based pregnancy test that doesn't need an intervening lab, the FELUDA, isn't yet at that stage and the paper is only one part of a series of steps to confirm the virus presence. The paper strip when dipped into a specially created chemical soup returns two blue lines if the virus is present and a single one if negative. "This bit on the paper takes two minutes but the several other steps can take time. However, the simpler machines and the standardised processes after the RNA is extracted make the FELUDA approach more scalable in a wide range of settings," said Dr. Anurag Agrawal, Director, CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), whose scientists have developed the test.

In theory a saliva sample can be used in a FELUDA-style system but current government regulations don't permit the use of such tests because there isn't a standardised process to extract RNA and — the wisdom goes — can lead to many more false negatives. "Our future plans do involve being able to make it a purely home-based test but that's still some time away," Mr. Mande said.

Published in:
[The Hindu](#)

CSIR

20th October, 2020

CSIR to set up Covid test centres, hospitals in Ladakh, J&K, Himachal

Pune: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will extend support to Himachal Pradesh and the UTs of J&K and Ladakh for ramping up infrastructure in the ongoing fight against Covid-19.

CSIR director general Shekhar Mande said the agency will set up two testing facilities in Ladakh and work for three makeshift hospitals in Himachal will begin this week.

Mande said, "On an immediate basis, CSIR will be setting up two testing centres in Ladakh —

one each at Leh and Kargil. We will provide manpower training required for carrying out tests."

Two CSIR institutes had developed an instantly deployable on-site hospital setup in August.

The advantage is that it can be readied within 5-7 days, with capacities ranging from 10, 20, 50 or 100 beds at any site.

Mande said work for 50-bedded hospital setups at three locations in Himachal Pradesh, will commence this week.

ANJALI MARAR

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CSIR-IHBT

19th October, 2020

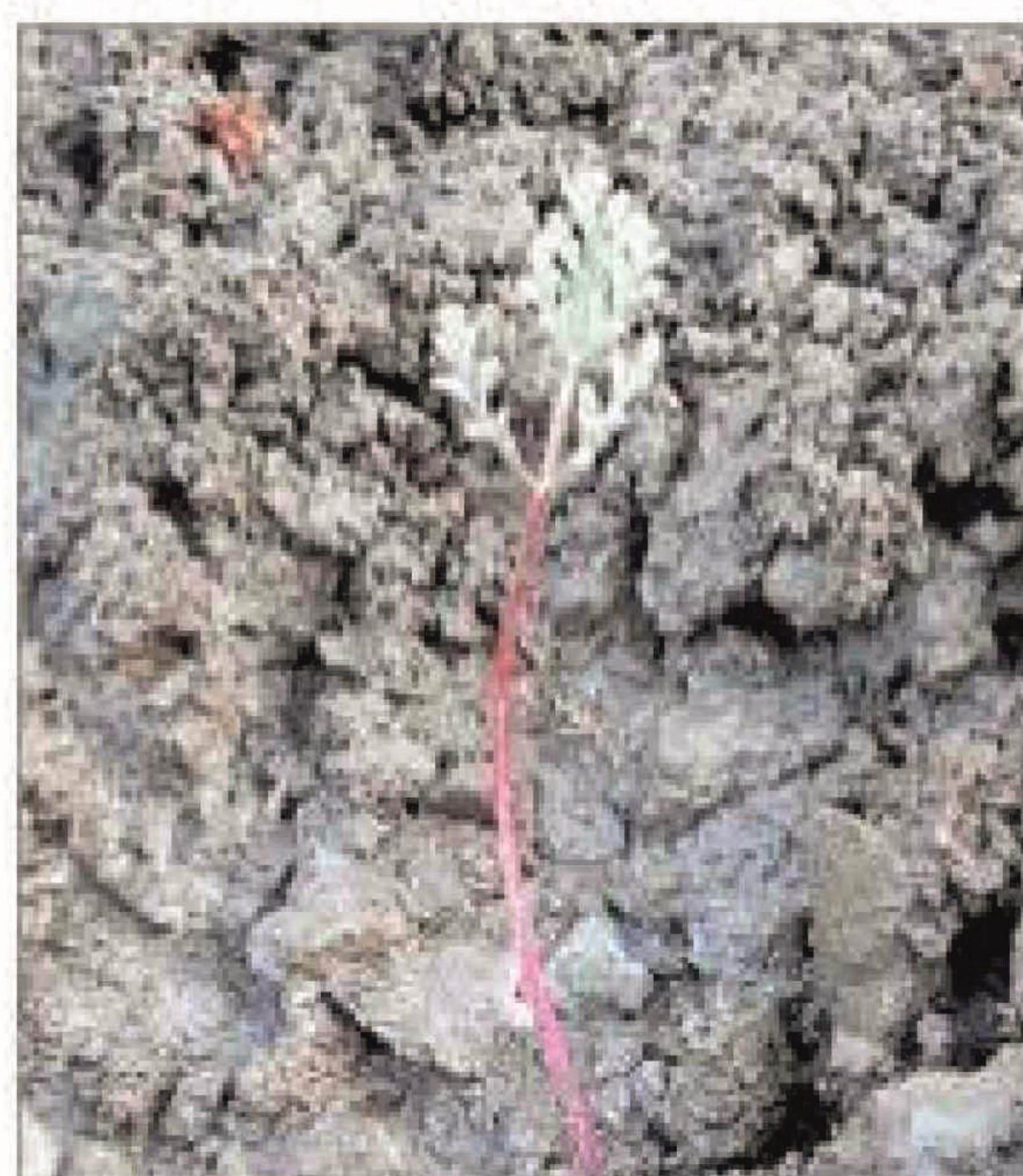
Now, cultivation of *heeng* begins in Lahaul valley

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PALAMPUR, OCTOBER 18

The CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur, has started the cultivation of 'heeng' for the first time in the state as well as the country. Dr Sanjay Kumar, director of the institute, initiated the programme by planting 'heeng' seedling at Kwaring village in Lahaul and Spiti, a cold desert district of the state.

Dr Sanjay Kumar said, "The consumption of heeng is the highest in our country but it is still not produced in



A heeng sapling planted in Lahaul and Spiti.

“The consumption of heeng is the highest in our country but it is still not produced in India. We are dependent on other nations. About 1,200 metric tonnes of raw heeng worth ₹600 crore is being imported from Afghanistan, Iran, Uzbekistan — Dr Sanjay Kumar,

DIRECTOR, CSIR-IHBT, PALAMPUR

India. We are completely dependent on other nations for its production. About 1,200 metric tonnes of raw heeng

worth Rs 600 crore is being imported from Afghanistan, Iran, Uzbekistan.”

The National Bureau of

Plant Genetics Resources has confirmed that 'heeng' seeds have not been imported into our country in past 30 years and this is the first attempt by the CSIR-IHBT to import its seeds. The institute has joined hands with the state Department of Agriculture to promote its cultivation.

“Its cultivation will be a milestone for increasing the income of farmers, while helping in the reduction of expenditure on its imports,” Dr Kumar told The Tribune here today.

Scientists of the institute Dr Ashok Kumar and Dr

Ramesh trained farmers in the Madgran, Beeling, Key-long and Kawaring areas of Lahaul and Spiti in collaboration with officers of the State Agriculture Department and set up a demonstration area for the same. Dr Ashok Kumar said 'heeng' was a perennial plant and it took around five years to produce gum resins in its roots. He said the climate in tribal areas of state was suitable for its cultivation and so it could be easily produced. Dr Ramesh gave detailed information about various farming techniques of 'heeng'.

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The Tribune

CSIR-IHBT

18th October, 2020

मुहिम

संस्थान के निदेशक डॉ. संजय कुमार ने लाहौल-स्पीति से की शुरुआत

आईएचबीटी ने उठाया हींग की खेती शुरू करने का बीड़ा

हिमाचल दस्तक। पालमपुर

हिमालय जैवसंपदा प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, पालमपुर ने प्रदेश में पहली बार हींग की खेती की शुरुआत करने का बीड़ा उठाया है। इसकी शुरुआत संस्थान के निदेशक डॉ. संजय कुमार ने प्रदेश के शीत मरुस्थल जिला लाहौल स्पीति से की है।

उन्होंने बताया कि पूरे विश्व में हींग की खपत भारत में सबसे अधिक है, किंतु भारत में इसका उत्पादन नहीं होता तथा देश हींग के लिए पूरी तरह से दूसरे देशों पर आश्रित रहता है। वर्तमान में 600 करोड़ रुपये के लगभग 1200

मीट्रिक टन कच्ची हींग अफगानिस्तान, ईरान, उज्बेकिस्तान से आयात की जाती है। राष्ट्रीय पादप आनुवंशिकी संसाधन ब्यूरो ने इस बात की पुष्टि की है कि पिछले 20 वर्षों में हींग के बीज का आयात हमारे देश में नहीं हुआ है और यह प्रथम प्रयास है, जब हिमालय जैवसंपदा प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, पालमपुर ने हींग के बीज का आयात किया है।

अब संस्थान ने कृषि विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश के साथ मिलकर हींग की खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हाथ मिलाया है। किसानों की आय को बढ़ाने के लिए हींग की खेती एक मील का पत्थर साबित हो



सकती है तथा आयात पर होने वाले खर्च में भी कमी आएगी। संस्थान के वैज्ञानिक डॉ. अशोक कुमार

तथा डॉ. रमेश ने लाहौल स्पीति के मडगां, बीलिंग, केलांग तथा कवारिंग क्षेत्रों में किसानों को कृषि

विभाग के अधिकारियों की उपस्थिति में हींग की खेती पर प्रशिक्षण दिया तथा हींग के बीज उत्पादन के लिए प्रदर्शनी क्षेत्र स्थापित किया। डॉ. अशोक कुमार ने बताया कि हींग एक बहुवर्षीय पौधा है तथा पांच वर्ष के उपरांत इसकी जड़ों से ओलिओ गम रेजिन निकलता है, जिसे शुद्ध हींग कहते हैं। इसकी खेती के लिए यहां कि जलवायु उपरुक्त है तथा इसकी खेती आसानी से की जा सकती है। इसकी खेती के लिए ढंड के साथ पर्याप्त धूप का होना अति आवश्यक है। डॉ. रमेश ने हींग की विभिन्न कृषि तकनीकों के बारे में विस्तृत जानकारी किसानों को दी।

Published in:

Himanchal Dastak

CSIR

18th October, 2020

Next 2.5 months crucial in fight against Coronavirus, says Harsh Vardhan

NEW DELHI: The next two-and-a-half months are going to be crucial in the fight against coronavirus because of the winter season and festivals, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Friday.

Vardhan, who is also Science and Technology Minister, said three vaccine candidates are progressing well in India with one of them in the advanced stage-III clinical trial and two others in stage-II trial.

He expressed hope that India will soon have indigenous production of vaccine against coronavirus.

The next two-and-a-half months are going to be very crucial for us in our fight against corona because of the winter season and the festival season. It becomes the respon-

sibility of every citizen to not let our guard down and follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour to curb the spread of the infection, Vardhan said.

The minister was chairing a meeting on COVID-19 appropriate behaviour with heads/directors of institutions of the Department of Science and Technology and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). He said the virus has adversely affected the whole world but simple precautionary measures are effective in preventing the coronavirus to a large extent.

Wearing mask, face cover especially in public spaces, and following hand and respiratory etiquettes are the cardinal principles of social vaccine, Vardhan said. He stressed on the



importance of physical distancing for effective containment of the disease. On the country's fight against COVID-19, the minister said India is continuously recording new milestones in treatment of COVID-19.

Our recovery rate is highest in the world and the fatality is among the lowest. The active cases are constantly declining. All the parameters have proven the success of the COVID-19

containment strategy followed by all states and union territories. We have successfully ramped up our testing capacity to meet the requirements. India also has now become self-reliant in terms of masks, PPE kits and ventilators which we earlier used to import, the minister said.

At an event held on Friday to observe 'World Food Day', Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said that due to unprecedented challenges faced by the world on account of the coronavirus pandemic, there has been a renewed focus on food, nutrition, health, immunity and sustainability.

The key focus of this year is the elimination of trans-fat from the food supply chain.

Presiding over the event

organised by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Vardhan reminded everyone of the government's effort to make India free of trans-fat by 2022, a year ahead of WHO's target.

Present in partially hydrogenated vegetable oils such as vanaspati, shortening and margarine, trans-fat is a major contributor to the rise in non-communicable diseases in India, the health ministry said in a statement. "Trans-fat is a modifiable risk factor for cardiovascular diseases (CVD). Eliminating CVD risk factor is especially relevant during COVID-19 as people with CVD are predisposed to have serious conditions having an impact on mortality," Vardhan said in the statement. **MPOST**

Published in:

Millennium Post

CSIR-CMERI's Revolutionary Decentralised Waste Management technology

CSIR-CMERI



Decentralised Waste Management technology developed by CSIR-CMERI can result in drastic reduction of expenditure related to Transportation Logistics and in the Indian Scenario can help reductions in CO₂ emissions, by reducing fossil fuel usage.

The Scientifically Decentralised Waste Processing Hubs will help multiply outreach for various locations and will also boost the manufacturing potential for the residents of the region. This CSIR-CMERI MSW Technology envisions a Zero-Landfill and a Zero Waste City in addition to develop Job-Creation opportunities. This technology will also help create a revived Green Energy reliant India. Prof.(Dr.) Harish Hirani, Director, CSIR-CMERI,

17th October, 2020

Durgapur, said, “Ineffective processing of Wastes are the root of many diseases as the dumped Landfills become the Contamination Hubs for Pathogens, Bacteria and Viruses.

Besides, they also become the cauldron for emission of Methane Gas, especially during the churning mechanisms deployed during Composting processes. Composting also does not yield impactful economic returns for the entrepreneurs. The mixed nature of wastes in the current scenario can easily lead to infiltration of heavy metals into agricultural produce, through the indiscriminate creation of Composts. The CSIR-CMERI developed Municipal Solid Waste Processing Facility has not only helped achieving Decentralized Decimation of Solid Wastes, but has also helped create value-added end-products from abundantly available redundant stuffs such as Dry Leaves, Dry Grass etc. The primary focus of CSIR-CMERI is to unburden the common households from the segregation responsibilities through Advanced Segregation techniques. The Bio-Digestion process adopted has minimum pollution factor. The MSW facility has been equipped with special

capabilities to deal with a diverse range of waste including Masks, Sanitary Napkins, Diapers, etc. The MSW facility has been with special disinfection capabilities to help breaking the COVID Chain through UV-C Lights and Hot-Air Convection methods. We have also achieved near optimum Energy Sufficiency in the MSW facility by adding the Solar energy technology, which can also feed the surplus Energy Supply into a Mini-Grid.” The Institute developed Solid Waste Disposal using Plasma Arc converting wastes into plasma state for proper disposal. The residues generated having good carbon content are used in agriculture as fertilizer and non usable are utilized to make bricks for construction purposes. Thus creating wealth out of wastes through use of science. The existing Windrow Composting procedure has some drawback as it requires more land space, pasteurization is required for effective disinfection, it is labour intensive and has restricted utilization due to presence of heavy metals. During the rainy season its management is difficult due to presence of moisture.

The alternative solution is Bio-methanation Plant. CSIR-CMERI has started an innovative technology of producing the Bio-gas from grass and weeds and Vermi-composting of Slurry of the plant process. A mechanized system has been developed to utilize saw dust, shredded leaves, biogas slurry and produces briquettes. The Smokeless Stove has also been developed to utilize these briquettes. Such stoves has the benefits of Reduction in import of LPG and reduction in pollution. Towards targeting a Zero landfill the latest technology being used by Institute is Pyrolysis process wherein conversion of plastics into gas and fuel are done. This is an environment-friendly process and produces within permissible toxins as conversion happens in the anaerobic chamber. Heavy oil, gas being used in pyrolysis helps in obtaining self-sustainability. Through Plasma Gasification Process also eco friendly disposal of solid wastes is processed without formation and reformation of toxic dioxins and furans. The Decentralized Solid Waste Management Plant developed by CSIR-CMERI has all the potentials to managing the COVID and other viruses available in the wastes.

Published in:

[DD News](#)

CSIR-CMERI ने नगर निगम के ठोस कचरे की सतत प्रसंस्करण सुविधा विकसित की

CSIR-CMERI

16th October, 2020



बदलते पारिस्थितिक परिदृश्यों को 'देखते हुए नगर निगमों के ठोस अपशिष्टों के सतत प्रसंस्करण' के मुद्दे पर विशेष ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। यह न केवल कचरे को उपयोगी अंत उत्पादों में परिवर्तित करने का एक आवश्यक तत्व है, बल्कि वातावरण को स्वच्छ बनाए रखने और मिट्टी, हवा और पानी को दूषित होने से बचाने में कारगर है। सीएसआईआर-सीएमईआरआई, दुर्गापुर के निदेशक प्रोफेसर (डॉ.) हरीश हिरानी ने इस विषय पर और प्रकाश डालते हुए अपने कार्यक्रम 'कृषिजागरण' में विस्तार से बताया। उनका यह कार्यक्रम शनिवार को फेसबुक पेज पर लाइव स्ट्रीम हुआ था। उन्होंने पारंपरिक अपशिष्ट प्रसंस्करण तकनीकों के क्रमबद्ध विकास की जानकारी दी और यह भी बताया कि नगर निगमों से निकलने वाले ठोस अपशिष्टों पर मौजूदा

समय में विशेष ध्यान दिए जाने की जरूरत है। प्रोफेसर हिरानी ने कहा 'अपशिष्टों का अपर्याप्त प्रसंस्करण सभी बीमारियों की जड़ है क्योंकि इस प्रकार के किसी स्थान विशेष पर डाला गया कचरा रोगाणुओं, जीवाणुओं और विषाणुओं के पनपने का विशेष स्थान बन जाता है। इसके अलावा, ऐसे क्षेत्र मीथेन गैस उत्सर्जन का भी बड़ा स्रोत बनते हैं। खासकर खाद बनाने की प्रक्रिया में यह गैस काफी उत्सर्जित होती है और कंपोस्टिंग से उद्यमियों को कोई खास आर्थिक लाभ भी नहीं मिलता है। वर्तमान परिदृश्य में कचरे की मिश्रित प्रकृति, कृषि उत्पादों में भारी धातुओं के मिश्रण को आसान बनाती हैं। सीएसआईआर-सीएमईआरआई द्वारा विकसित निगम ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रसंस्करण सुविधा ने न केवल ठोस अपशिष्टों के विकेंद्रीकृत विघटन में मदद की है बल्कि सूखे पत्तों, सूखी घास आदि जैसे प्रचुर मात्रा में उपलब्ध व्यर्थ माने जाने वाले तत्वों से मूल्य वर्धित अंतः उत्पाद बनाने में भी मदद की है। जैव विघटन की यह तकनीक बहुत ही कम प्रदूषण कारक है। मास्क, सेनेटरी नैपकिन, डायपर आदि विविध प्रकार के कचरे से निपटने के लिए एमएसडब्ल्यू सुविधा को विशेष क्षमताओं से लैस किया गया है। इस सुविधा में विशेष विसंक्रमण क्षमता को शामिल किया गया है जो यूवीसी प्रकाश और हॉट-एयर

संचरण विधियों से कोविड की चेन को तोड़ने में कारगर साबित हुई है। “सीएसआईआर-सीएमईआरआई द्वारा विकसित विकेंद्रीकृत अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन प्रौद्योगिकी के परिणामस्वरूप परिवहन लॉजिस्टिक्स से संबंधित खर्च में भारी कमी हो सकती है और यह जीवाश्म ईंधन के उपयोग को कम करके कार्बन डाईऑक्साइड उत्सर्जन में कमी लाने में भी मदद कर सकता है। वैज्ञानिक रूप से विकेंद्रीकृत अपशिष्ट प्रसंस्करण हब विभिन्न स्थानों के लिए बहुतायत से मदद करेगा और क्षेत्र के निवासियों के लिए विनिर्माण क्षमता को भी बढ़ावा देगा। यह सीएसआईआर-सीएमईआरआई एमएसडब्ल्यू टेक्नोलॉजी जॉब-निर्माण के अवसरों को विकसित करने के अलावा एक जीरो-लैंडफिल और एक जीरो वेस्ट सिटी के सपने को साकार कर सकता है। यह तकनीक हरित ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भर भारत को फिर से स्थापित करने में मदद करेगी।” संस्थान ने ठोस अपशिष्ट निस्तारण प्रक्रिया को प्लाज्मा आर्क का इस्तेमाल करके विकसित किया है जिसमें कचरे को बेहतर निस्तारण के लिए प्लाज्मा अवस्था में बदला जाता है। इस प्रकार से जो उत्पाद सृजित होते हैं उनमें कार्बन के बेहतर तत्व होते हैं जिनका इस्तेमाल कृषि क्षेत्र में उर्वरक और निर्माण क्षेत्र में ईंट बनाने में किया जा सकता है। अतः यह तकनीक विज्ञान का प्रयोग कर कचरे से संपदा का सृजन करने में मददगार साबित हो रही है। यह तकनीक 2013-16 की अवधि से संबद्ध है और इसमें कुछ लागत बाधाएं भी हैं। इस मौजूदा कम्पोस्टिंग प्रक्रिया में कुछ कमियां भी हैं क्योंकि इसके लिए अधिक भूमि की आवश्यकता होती है, प्रभावी कीटाणुशोधन के लिए पास्चराइजेशन की आवश्यकता होती है, यह श्रम गहन है और भारी धातुओं की उपस्थिति के कारण इसका उपयोग प्रतिबंधित है। बारिश के मौसम में नमी की अधिकता के कारण इसका प्रबंधन कठिन होता है और इसका एक वैकल्पिक समाधान जैव मिथेनशन संयंत्र है। सीएसआईआर-सीएमईआरआई ने घास और खरपतवारों से बायोगैस बनाने की नवीन तकनीक शुरू की है और वर्मी-कम्पोस्टिंग से स्लरी खाद तैयार की है। इसके अलावा झड़ी हुई पत्तियों, बायोगैस घोल और अन्य पदार्थों के निस्तारण के लिए एक मशीनीकृत प्रक्रिया भी विकसित की गई है। एक शून्य लैंडफिल के उद्देश्य को हासिल करने के लिए संस्थान द्वारा आधुनिक तकनीक का इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है जिसे पायरोलिसिस प्रक्रिया कहा जाता है जिसमें प्लास्टिक को गैस और ईंधन में परिवर्तित किया जाता है। यह एक पर्यावरण के अनुकूल प्रक्रिया है और इससे कम विषाक्त पदार्थ उत्पन्न होते हैं क्योंकि रूपांतरण की यह प्रक्रिया अवायवीय कक्ष में होती है। इस प्रक्रिया में भारी तेल और गैस का इस्तेमाल किए जाने से आत्मनिर्भरता प्राप्त करने में मदद मिली है। प्लाज्मा गैसीफिकेशन प्रक्रिया भी पर्यावरण अनुकूल है और इसमें ठोस अपशिष्टों का निस्तारण होता है तथा इसमें जहरीले डायोक्सीन और फ्यूरान जैसे तत्व भी नहीं बनते हैं। सीएसआईआर-सीएमईआरआई द्वारा विकसित विकेंद्रीकृत ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन तकनीक कचरे में मौजूद किसी भी प्रकार के प्रदूषण तत्वों के प्रबंधन की संभावनाएं हैं।

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Insamachar

Micro quakes hit Hyderabad's financial district after floods, NGRI scientists set up seismic stations

CSIR-NGRI



Financial district area of Gachibowli has been witnessing micro quakes for the past two days due to hydroseismicity following the heavy rains that lashed the city. My Home Vihanga residential complex, TNGO phase 2 colony and Indian School of Business reported the minor tremors and huge sounds coming from underneath the earth. NGRI scientists who put up Seismograph stations said that the tremors are similar to Borabanda tremors and the magnitude recorded around 0.5 to 0.8 and My Home Vihanga is built to withstand 6 to 6.5 magnitudes on Richter scale. Around 40 families out of 2,000 living in the residential complex left for safety. NGRI chief Seismologist D SriNagaesh told TOI, "There is nothing to worry about

15th October, 2020

these quakes. They are similar to Borabanda tremors that led to panic recently due to hydroseismicity. We have set up three stations in and around My Home Vihanga and TNGO's colony phase 2". The area witnessing hydroseismicity was a rocky terrain. ISB sources told TOI: "Our operations team informed that there were minor tremors on Wednesday evening," My Home Vihanga society manager Katta Prasad said, "We witnessed vibrations twice in the past two days and multiple times huge sound from the earth and the last one was at 1.57 am on Thursday. Only 40 families left the building temporarily. Officials assured not to panic." GHMC officials, NGRI scientists, My Home Constructions engineers had discussions with MHV society members for three hours. MHV Management Committee in a communication to all residents said, "The thudding sounds and vibrations are because of hydroseismicity and it is not an earthquake issue. The maximum amplitude recorded in their observatory is about 0.8 on the scale. Most of them were well below 0.5 as per their recordings. We can rest assured and carry on with our regular life.

Scientists also said these could recur over the next 3-5 weeks until the water from the rains seeps down and fills up the pores or air pockets created by unbridled drilling of bore wells and water extraction in this area. The thudding sounds and vibrations are a result of the water filling and air escaping with rock layer adjustments, which are a common phenomenon as per their expert view."

The seismometer placed Wednesday night did not show any seismic activity. NGRI is planning to set up the tremor recording stations at IIT-H and Hyderabad Central University.

GHMC and government officials assured locals of no seismic activity being reported and that this is limited to in and around Financial District only. Engineers who inspected the site said all the structures are safe and there is no threat to life or property.

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