

Adding, "This conference will be inaugurated by Dr Satish B Agnihotri, secretary, MNRE. He would also be chairing the concluding session of the conference. Through the conference we aim to address some of the major concerns of the value

chain of the biofuel development program. Our counterparts from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra amongst others would present their success stories. The reviews of various stakeholders would be heard."He said, the executive chairman of the board, Mr GVK Rau, ACS and development commissioner and Mr Vijay Bhaskar, ACS, department of rural development and Panchayat Raj of Government of Karnataka will also be present at the event.

Further, Mr Monnappa explained that the concluding panel discussion would present the crux of the program. "The panel discussion will revolve around suggestions for new initiatives and policy changes that are required on the national level. The novel initiatives that would help the country scale up on the global level will be summed up."

Claiming that every policy worth its salt should be valued once in 4-5 years, Mr Divakar Rao, Vision Group on Biotechnology, Government of Karnataka said that if this is not done, policies remain merely on paper.

"There is a need to take a second look at the policy. New components need to be added. We are looking at certain replicable models. Karnataka's board strives to take forward the biofuel movement in the state with a farmer-centric, multi-species approach which is supported by a well thought out infrastructure designed to support all stages of the value chain of biofuels," he said.

Further explaining, "In the meeting of the reconstituted MNRE Working Group on biofuels held in New Delhi in January 2014, it was aptly decided that a national conference could be an excellent platform to deliberate on these points, and come out with ideas on new initiatives and policy changes required. Karnataka was chosen to plan and host the conference."

The conference will put together the experiences of different states in the biofuel sector. An evaluation of the progress achieved and problems faced by some of the prominent states will be discussed. Further, a discussion on achieving critical volumes in Biomass production would be held. An important aspect that is relevant in achieving the desired volumes and quality in biofuel production in a viable and sustainable manner would be discussed in the 'Managing biofuel value chain' part of the conference.

The event is being co-sponsored by the Hutti Gold Mines and Novozymes South Asia and will be attended by farmers, rural entrepreneurs, industrialists, businessmen, investors, policy makers, strategists, representatives from several states, members of the working group of MNRE, representatives from all I&D Centres of the Board, major NGOs and members of KSBDB.

The event will also witness the presence of Dr Navin Sharma, a representative from ICRAF from the World Agro-forestry Centre. The UN body is said to have noted that the path-breaking work done in Karnataka may be best suited to the needs of several developing nations of Asia and Africa.