



Media Update

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UNIDO

PRESS RELEASE

UNIDO helps industry to play its part in solving the energy challenges in Pakistan

The UNITED NATIONS Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) with funding from Global Environmental Facility (GEF) is implementing a project which seeks to promote market-based adoption of Biomass Gasification Technologies for SMEs in Pakistan. Cognizant of the huge volumes of waste from agro-processing SMEs that is otherwise burnt in the open, the project adopts a holistic approach to the adoption of biomass gasification in SMEs by addressing the attendant barriers in a systematic manner.

Pakistan today faces serious energy challenges that include frequent power cuts, brown outs and unreliable supply of fossil fuels. For SMES power cuts results in the following, reduced production levels, reduced quality of production etc. Therefore, by helping SMEs develop biomass gasification power plants, UNIDO seeks to enable SMEs to contribute towards addressing the energy challenges in the country.

Under this project, UNIDO provides technical assistance to SMEs that produce huge volumes of waste to design biomass gasification technologies so as to use the waste into heat and power so as to meet the needs of the industries and possibly export the excess to the power grid. In addition, the project will create a critical mass of capacities in local technology services providers to locally fabricate biomass gasifiers, design biomass gasifiers and for local universities to teach about this technology.





As part of this process, on 16th Jan, 2015, UNIDO signed a memorandum of understanding with Punjab Rice Mills to support the development of a feasibility study for 1MW rice husk based gasification power plant at Bhawalnagar. Signing the MoU, UNIDO country representative Mr. Esam ALQARARAH said that “Pakistan being an agricultural country possesses a fuel for future which is cheap, clean and abundant. He also said such projects will enable SMEs to have uninterrupted electricity to run the operations of SMEs which will increase their productivity and also help in providing low cost electricity in line with UNIDO’s renewed mandate of inclusive and sustainable development.”

Addressing the event, Mr. Alois P Mhlanga, Industrial Development Officer, UN Headquarters, Vienna, who was visiting Pakistan for the project 2nd steering committee meeting remarked that the feasibility study to be developed for this 1MW gasification plant does lay a strong foundation for finding new ways of clean energy by demonstrating technical feasibility & economic viability of biomass gasification technology. . He further explained how project will address the barriers on the policy side by including this very efficient technology in Pakistan’s national and provincial energy policies.

Addressing the event , CEO –SMEDA - Mr. Alamgir Chaudhry emphasized that UNIDO is adopting right strategy by providing gasifier design to the local manufacturers of Biomass Gasifiers and work on to strengthen the technology support systems by doing the capacity building of local manufactures , engineers , biomass experts and R& D side . This way Pakistan will be able to locally manufacture and fabricate the biomass Gasifiers which will result in low cost of biomass gasification energy systems.”

The Biomass Energy Project is getting huge support from Government, private sector, Academia and stakeholders and will help Pakistan to cater energy crisis by utilization of such technologies.

