Biofuels and Faem Fire

Stubble Burning or Faem Fire had become a potent source of Air pollution in North India, which can be tackled through Biofuels.

Biofuel require raw material which is the byproduct of agriculture. Stubble, molasses, agree-waste, surplus food etc can be used as raw material in biofuels plants.

This will tackle two issues

(i) pollution → During winter, faemers from Punjab & Haryana need to clear their feilds for next crop →

Standing stubble
↓
Limited time
↓
financially unviable solution
↓
Burn

→ This create smoke due to PM2.5 & PM10 and pollute air.

(ii) Farmers Income - Government resolve to double farmers income by 2022 and National Biofuel Policy are complementary.

→ The policy allows diversion of surplus food towards biofuel, by categorising them into 1G & 2G.

→ Farmer can sell the produce for alternative market.

Government initiatives

(i) various schemes such as Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro resource Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN) for capacity creation.

- Punjab state is incentivising financially to farmers to not to burn stubble.
- central electricity regulatory commission has reduced tariffs of biofuels on par with other RE.

- Ji-Yan mission of MOPNG provides VGF to help meet National Biofuel Target of 20% ethanole blending by 2030

(ii) International collaborsation with Sweden for technology import.

Challenges Associated with Stubble Burning

(i) On farm management is difficult to expensive machines & time constraints.

(ii) Alternative cropping will incentivise only when it will match paddy wst. money and efforts

(iii) Biofuel policy is yet to gain momentum due to cheap thermal energy, lack of Backward & forward linkages with farm and stubble sources.

→ Agreeculture being state subject state cooperation is required.

Way forward

(i) cogeneration of pallets and Briquets which can be done in limited time.

(ii) contract with farmers before cropping to provide them assurity.

(iv) linkages with farm & plants for fast decision making.

(v) state of Art technique with the promotion in RED will help India to achieve global commitment of 40% Non fossil energy.