

Biofuels and Farm Fire

Stubble Burning or Farm Fire

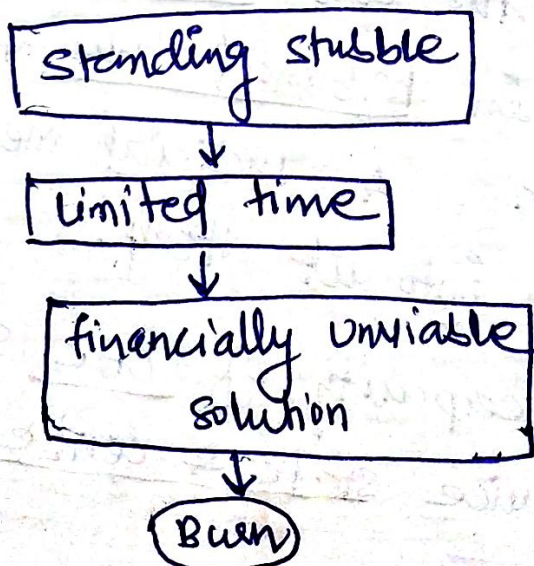
has become a potent source of Air pollution in North India, which can be tackled through

Biofuels:

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

This will tackle two issues

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



→ 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 1 & 2.

→ farmer can sell the produce for alternative market.

Government initiatives

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

- punjab state is incentivising financially to farmers not to burn stubble.

- central electricity regulatory commission has reduced tariffs of biofuels on par with other RE.

- Ji-van mission of MOPENG provides VGF to help meet National Biofuel Target of 20% ethanol blending by 2030

(ii) international collaboration 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 cost, 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.

→ Agriculture being state subject state cooperation is required.

~~Ex)~~ Way forward

- (i) cogeneration of pallets and brickets 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 AST technique with the promotion in RED will help India to achieve global commitment of 40% Non fossil energy.