

Concept Paper		
Video Conference to Disseminate Study on “Possible Uses of Crop Residue for Energy Generation Instead of Open Burning”		
Video Conference	PRG-178/2020/PETREN	SEC

Background:

Rice and wheat are dominant crops in South Asian countries (mainly in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan); resultantly, producing large quantity of residual straw, which is generally burnt in open air. As a result of burning this agriculture waste, the black carbon emissions combine with dense winter fog, give rise to atmospheric smog in South Asia. Though the burning has some short-term advantages to the farmers; but it gives birth to major health and environmental issues. Therefore, to counter these environmental and health impacts, the crop residue needs some alternative, but farmer supportive treatment instead of open burning. One possible solution is converting crop residue into useful energy. For example, electricity generation by using crop residue as fuel in power generation plant or production of synthesis gas from the crop residue.

To evaluate the potential of crop residue available in SAARC region, for conversion into useful energy and to assess technological options with valid cost benefit analysis; SEC carried out a study on “Possible use of crop residue for energy generation instead of open burning” in 2019.

Introduction:

In order to share the important aspects and findings of the study report with wider audience, SEC under its thematic area “Programme on Integrated Assessments of Energy, Transport, and Environment (PETREN)” is organizing a Video Conference to disseminate findings of the study on “Possible uses of crop residue for energy generation instead of open burning”.

The Video Conference will be conducted in two sections. The first part will be a brief about the study, which will be presented by the authors and the peer reviewer/s of the report explaining the whole study report, its findings and recommendations. In the second part, eminent energy expert from within and outside the SAARC region will be invited to share his/ her valuable experiences with the participants and inform them of the latest trends worldwide. The resultant outcome will eventually be made part of the study report for its final printing and dissemination.

Objectives:

The objectives of the Video Conference are to:

1. Disseminate study report and its findings/ recommendations among the participants from SAARC Member States
2. Seek views of expert based on their experience about various possible solutions to address the issue while considering local conditions of Member States
3. Incorporate inputs and comments of the participants from Member State in the study report

Major Aspects /Topics to be covered during the Video Conference:

The following major areas/ topics shall be covered:

1. Estimation of crops residue, and potential of energy generation from the available crop residue in SAARC Member States
2. Other possible uses of crop residue through sustainable management
3. Conversion technologies for agriculture waste into useful energy
4. Underlying technical as well as policy issues in adopting alternative uses
5. Socioeconomic aspects of converting crop residue into useful energy
6. Cost benefit analysis to convert crop residue into energy
7. International best practices to generate energy from crop residues and SAARC experience
8. Conclusion and Way Forward

Potential Professional Resource:

Team of experts from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Private Limited, India who conducted the study shall be invited for the dissemination purpose. The study peer reviewer shall be invited as a resource person. Moreover, important relevant technical & policy experts from and outside the SAARC region shall be invited to share their research and experiences. SEC's in-house professionals would also be contributing to the Video Conference by sharing their knowledge and experience with the participants.

Venue of the Video Conference:

The Video Conference shall be broadcasted from the office of SAARC Energy Centre (SEC), Islamabad.