

Punjab

Punjab to convert stubble into biomass fuel

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Relevant to M&M- FES, FAAS

Background

- The Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) in association with the Government of Punjab, is soon coming up with an alternative for paddy stubble utilisation. Stubble burning is one of the biggest problems in north India to curb this, the Punjab government's own agency
- Stubble which is a residue left out of the paddy and wheat field is normally burnt in the field itself. This stubble burning brings a lot of environmental problems as well as health problems
- In Punjab itself, around twenty million tonnes of paddy stubble is generated out of these only five per cent are used in a cleaner way for generating biofuel or environmentally friendly usage rest are burnt in the field

What's next?

- Apart from the aforementioned plant, two more biomass power projects with 14 MW capacity are in pipeline and will start working completely from June 2021.
- These 14 MW plant will also require 1.26 lakh metric tonnes paddy stubble per annum for operation.
- These biomass power projects are environmentally friendly due to relatively lower CO₂ and particulate emissions and also displace fossil fuels such as coal which is very beneficial for the environment.

For Further Study

1. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/biomass-power-plants-bio-cng-bioethanol-how-peda-plans-to-spin-paddy-stubble-into-gold-6590158/>
2. <https://currentaffairs.gktoday.in/punjab-to-convert-stubble-into-biomass-fuel-092020342070.html>