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Strength and weakness of algal fuel in India: A review

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Abstract

Growing demand, non-renewable nature and rate of depletion of conventional fuel sources has created a need to search for alternative fuel sources to meet the demands of a developing nation like India with a huge population. Indian government has announced the National Biofuel Policy in 2008 to meet 20% of the nation's fuel demand from plant sources at the expense of more than a lakh square kilometers of cultivable land. This plan may face challenges in future fueling the the food vs fuel debate. Thus biofuel production from marine microalgae is a better and sustainable option without constraints from use of cultivable land. This paper reviews the current status of algal fuel in India and will highlight the areas that need to be strengthened through research to overcome the high cost factor of the technology.

Keywords: non-renewable; conventional fuel; alternative fue; microalgae

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