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CONTEMPORARY TECH TO SEQUESTERATE CO₂ AND PRODUCTION OF BIOFUEL USING MICROALGAE

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ABSTRACT

The major life threatening issues of the present scenario are the environmental pollution and fuel deficiency. The potential of micro-algae to sequester CO₂ permanently and to produce biofuel is exploited here. The species like *Chlorococcum littorale* and *Euglena gracilis* can grow under high percentage concentration of CO₂. Coal fueled power stations produce large amounts of CO₂ as well as other harmful gases. Concentrated CO₂ from such power stations is fed to microalgae which remove the carbon and release pure oxygen via photosynthesis. The supremacy is that the outbursting thirst of algae can be pacified using sea water. Algal biomass obtained, is used as raw material and fermented in a digester to produce bio gas. Some combustion products such as NO_x or SO_x can also be effectively used as nutrients for microalgae. Thus decreasing the content of harmful gases in the atmosphere, the resulting biogas can be used as green fuel. This can be also used in places such as industrialised areas and densely populated cities. Thus it acts against global warming twice, first by absorbing CO₂ and second by preventing further emission of CO₂ by the production of eco-friendly fuel. Though it requires high cost of implantation, it can be coped up with its high valued products. It is being implemented in various countries and the challenges are held to be overcome. On discussing the challenges and opportunities in this dual purpose project, the feasibility is of considerable amount.

KEYWORDS: CO₂ sequestration; microalgae; Biofuel