

India eyes global bio-energy leadership with unified push on capital, missions and SAF exports

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Synopsis

India is poised to become a major bio-energy exporter and bolster its energy security. Industry leaders at the India Bio-Energy Conference 2026 are calling for a single agency to streamline bio-fuel and Sustainable Aviation Fuel projects. The nation aims to meet domestic needs and export SAF, potentially generating billions. This push aligns with India's focus on self-reliance and net-zero goals.

New Delhi: India can turn bio-energy into a major export engine and a pillar of energy security, industry leaders said on the sidelines of [India Bio-Energy Conference 2026](#), with calls for a single nodal agency, state-wise resource missions and a big push on implementation for bio-fuels and Sustainable Aviation Fuel.

"Time now for a big bank announcement and more importantly, the big bank implementation," said Lt Col Monish Ahuja (Retd), Co-Chair of the National Committee on Bio-Energy under the Trade Promotion Council of India.

"Announcements we will make but we need to go on the implementation side for these bio-fuel projects and I think sky is the limit for India."

Ahuja said India's leadership is already visible through the [Global Bio-Fuel Alliance](#) launched during the G20 Presidency and the government's focus on [Atma Nirbharta](#), energy security, net zero and carbon circularity.

However, he flagged fragmented governance as the top challenge. "Capital requirement for this sector, nodal agency for this sector... we still have multiple actions of government dispersed. Ministry of Agriculture for resource, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Petroleum... Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Rural Development, Finance Ministry... But where is one single port of call where the bio-energy sector can

go?" he asked. He suggested either a nodal ministry or an independent department to streamline decisions and funding.

He also urged a targeted resource mission, adding, "Resource utilization mission should be the way. Target that the resource of agriculture residue per state, per district, that pinpointed number of development needs to be set," Ahuja said.

Looking outward, he said the Global South is watching India's model.

"Africa, South East Asia, all the agrarian economies. India's model needs to go there and get replicated. From compressed bio-gas and 2G ethanol to sustainable aviation fuel, e-methanol for shipping, green hydrogen from biomass and bio-chemicals replacing petrochemicals, he called bio-energy "a molecule and the molecule is a circular clean molecule."

Rajesh Mehta, Senior Consultant for Energy & Materials Transition at TNO Netherlands, noted that PM Modi's May visit to the Netherlands produced a strategic partnership covering water, green hydrogen, bioeconomy and semiconductors.

"Companies are also moving forward with this excitement and trying to explore joint practice," Mehta said. TNO, which scales lab tech to pilot and deployment, is "really looking forward to engaging with the Indian counterparts... on how can we support them on the technology scalability and also deploying them for the Indian market."