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Farmer Participation Vital from Farm to CBG Plant, Experts Stress at Bioenergy Programme

The programme concluded that increasing farmers' participation in the bioenergy sector requires more than stubble management; the entire value chain must be made economically sustainable. Fair pricing, long-term procurement agreements, village-level collection centres and easier FPO formation can enable farmers to benefit directly. Diversified feedstock, better technology and practical policies can further provide a strong foundation for the growth of the CBG sector.



A bioenergy programme held in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, on Thursday focused on increasing farmers' incomes through green energy generated from stubble and agricultural residues. Policymakers, scientists and industry representatives at the programme stressed the need for a robust supply chain from farms to Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants, better stubble quality, remunerative prices and village-level collection centres to increase farmers' incomes and ensure a consistent supply of biomass to industry. Farmers were also urged to become aggregators and entrepreneurs.

The programme was jointly organised by the **Indian Federation of Green Energy** (IFGE) and **Rural Voice** on the theme 'Fuelling Green Energy and Income Opportunities for Farmers'. It was part of the three-day **India Bioenergy & Tech Expo 2026**.

The two sessions featured Uttar Pradesh Goseva Commission Chairman Shyam Bihari Gupta; Director of Agriculture Extension, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Dr Kaniz Fatima; Joint Director in the Agriculture Department, Balram Verma; Vice President of Praj Industries, Tushar Patil; Principal Scientist at ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad, Dr A.V. Umanath; Co-founder and COO of Farmwatt Innovations, a super-aggregator company, Sachin Sakalle; Chairman and Managing Director of Punjab Renewable Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd., Lt Col (Retd.) Monish Ahuja; and CEO of Mapsets India, Nikhil Chandra. Progressive farmers Umesh Kumar from Shamli district, Uttar Pradesh, and Manish Bharti also raised issues concerning farmers. The programme was moderated by Rural Voice Editor-in-Chief Harvir Singh.

Second Session Discusses Feedstock Ecosystem

The second session of the programme was titled 'Way Forward for a Sustainable Bioenergy Feedstock System'.

Lt Col (Retd.) Monish Ahuja, CMD of Punjab Renewable Energy, said government schemes are often formulated without adequately assessing their economic viability. Citing an example, he said a target was set in 2018 to establish 5,000 CBG projects within five years, but only 48 projects were installed during that period. Subsequently, the target of 5,000 projects was extended to 2028, but only around 200 plants have been established so far.



Highlighting the funding challenge, he said banks and financial institutions would provide funding only when projects are based on sustainable business models. A subsidy-dependent business model cannot work, he said. He also called for a separate regulator for the emerging sector.