



INTERACTIVE MEET

Use of Retro Fitment Kits for Compressed Bio Gas (CBG)/Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for Agricultural Tractors

One day interactive meet on 'Use of Retro Fitment Kits for Compressed Bio Gas (CBG)/Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for Agricultural Tractors' was jointly organized by Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI) and Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT), Pune on 30th August 2021. Meeting was attended by representatives from sugar mills (Nira Bhima SSKL, Natural Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd, Malegaon SSKL and Kukadi SSKL), representatives of manufactures/suppliers of Retro Fitment Kits (Rawmatt India, Mankar Gas Agencies and CBGplus), CIRT team & VSI team. Total 40 participants attended the interactive meet.

Welcome address was given by Mr. Shivajirao Deshmukh, DG, VSI. He highlighted importance of retro-fitment of kits to agricultural tractors in view of increasing prices of diesel and related benefits to the farming community.

Mr. Sambhaji Kadupatil, OSD, VSI briefed the purpose of meeting and role of CIRT, Kit manufacturer/suppliers, sugar mill and VSI. He mentioned that CIRT will be involved in certification of kit. They also monitor safety aspects and performance of the retro fitted vehicles. Kit manufacturers will provide kit

specification to CIRT/VSI and kits to VSI/sugar mills. They will be responsible for conversion of tractors from Diesel to CNG. Sugar mills will provide information such as load carrying capacity and range required for tractors. Sugar mills will also provide tractors for conversion and conduct trials with the help of kit manufacturers. VSI will facilitate the retro fitment of kit with the help of CIRT, Pune. VSI will also provide two/three tractors for retro-fitment and will be involved in trials.

Mr. BB Thombare, Chairman and Managing Director, Natural Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd., emphasized that sugar mills should take the responsibilities of converting existing tractors to CNG which will help farmers to save up to 50% on their fuel cost which will ultimately result in reducing the harvesting and transportation cost in FRP price.

Mr. Harshvardhan Patil, Hon. Ex-Minister mentioned that price of kit should be affordable to the farmers. He also mentioned that conversion should not compromise performance of tractor. He also emphasized that only dual fuel kits should be used for trials.





Mr. Narendra Murkumbhi, Chairman, Technical Committee, VSI also participated in the meet via video conferencing. He welcomed the initiative taken by VSI and explained about the market potential along with its benefits to sugarcane growers/sugar mills.

During interactive discussion, the kit manufacturers explained about the technical specifications of dual fuel kit for tractors. They also shared the details of vehicles which have been converted from diesel to CNG. On the basis of their past experience they assured that dual fuel kit conversion for tractor is possible. However, they have emphasized that trials need to be conducted on agricultural tractors. They

also explained advantages and disadvantage of mono and dual fuel kits.

In concluding remarks, Prof. SV Patil, Head & Technical Adviser of Department of Alcohol Technology & Biofuels, VSI, mentioned that each of the participating sugar mill can convert minimum about six tractors to CNG/CBG using kits offered by respective retro-fitment vendors. He also mentioned that all interested sugar mills are requested to invite the concerned vendor to finalize the retro-fitment at their factory. He finally thanked all the participants for attending meet and their support in this initiative.



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