

REPORT

All India Seminar on “Use of B Heavy Molasses or Alternative Feed Stocks for Maximizing Ethanol Production”

The Sugar Technologists' Association of India (STAI) in association with **National Sugar Institute, Kanpur** organized All India Seminar on “**Use of B Heavy Molasses or Alternative Feed Stocks for Maximizing Ethanol Production**”, on **21st January 2015**, at **Gulmohar Hall**, India Habitat Centre New Delhi.

The topic of the seminar is of prime relevance in present scenario, as the industry is saddled with high inventory and subdued sugar prices both at domestic and international levels. The ex-mill sugar price has now gone well below the production cost of the sugar. To avert crisis sugar produced in excess of consumption in the country should be exported but this has limitation as the export price of sugar vis-a-vis cost of sugar production in India has gone down. The other alternative is to divert some sugar to produce ethanol as it is done in Brazil. The diversion of sugar to ethanol will reduce the sugar production and therefore, help in balancing supply and demand of sugar in India.

The total production of alcohol in India is about 2.5 to 3 billion litres. 5% ethanol blending programme requires 0.8 million litres ethanol and remaining ethanol can be diverted to distilleries and chemical industry. The OMC complaint that requisite ethanol is not available for 5% blending let alone for 10% blending which Govt. of India recently announced. While the ethanol producing distilleries and the sugar industry complaint that the prices offered the OMCs is far below the industry's cost of production.

In order to give boost to ethanol blending programme and help the sugar industry **Govt. of India has recently fixed a price of Rs 48.50-49.50 per litre for procurement of ethanol for blending with petrol.**

The technological solution to boost ethanol production is to divert B heavy molasses to ethanol production. There is also another alternative to produce alcohol from alternative feedstocks. This can largely be used to drinking alcohol which can make molasses based alcohol for ethanol blending programme.

The key dignitaries who addressed the seminar were:

1. **Dr. G.S.C. Rao**, President, The Sugar Technologists Association of India
2. **Mr. Abinash Verma**, Director General, Indian Sugar Mills Association,
3. **Mr. M.G. Joshi**, Managing Director, National Federation of Cooperative. Sugar Factories Ltd.
4. **Mr. V.N. Raina**, Director General, All India Distillers Association
5. **Mr. Narendra Mohan**, Director, National Sugar Institute, Kanpur,
6. **Mr. N. Prabhakar**, President, SISSTA.