

Experts moot plan for bioenergy, waste-to-energy projects at airports

BENGALURU, DHNS

A potential collaboration in the areas of bioenergy, waste-to-energy, sustainable energy solutions for airport infrastructure and circular economy models was extensively discussed by stakeholders at a meeting.

The meeting between SE Sudheendra, chairman of Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board (KSBDB) and V Prem Watsa, founder, chairman and CEO of Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited, revolved around the formulation of the new bioenergy policy and expected investment in bioenergy sector.

He briefed Watsa on the various initiatives being undertaken in Karnataka to promote the

production and utilisation of biofuels by making effective use of different types of feedstocks and bio-resources available.

Sudheendra particularly highlighted sustainable utilisation of bio-resources, compressed biogas, biodiesel, other biofuels and renewable energy solutions.

The meeting explored the potential for waste-to-energy projects at airports, involving scientific management of waste generated on airport premises and conversion of suitable organic and other waste streams into energy.

These initiatives could reduce the quantity of waste sent to landfills while promoting efficient resource utilisation, energy recovery and development of environmentally sustainable

airports.

Sudheendra proposed the development of an 'airport bio-energy and circular economy model', under which resources generated within airport ecosystems could be integrated into a comprehensive sustainable energy framework.

He said used cooking oil generated by restaurants, hotels and canteens at airports could be collected and utilised for biodiesel production, while food waste and other suitable green waste could be scientifically processed for production of compressed biogas.

The discussions covered various dimensions of airport-based biofuel and waste-to-energy projects, including investment opportunities, technology col-

laboration, project development and knowledge exchange.

The possibility of developing pilot models that could be implemented in Karnataka and subsequently replicated at other airports across the country was also explored.

The chairman emphasised that Karnataka had immense potential in bioenergy sector.

Strategic partnerships with global investors and organisations having experience in airport and infrastructure sectors could accelerate development of clean-energy projects, circular economy initiatives and sustainable energy systems, he said.

Fr Victor Lobo, vice-chancellor, St Joseph's University, and Dancil Lobo, pro-vice-chancellor were present on the occasion.



Fr Danzil Lobo S J, pro vice-chancellor St Joseph's University, V Prem Watsa, founder, chairman and CEO of Fairfax Financial Holdings, and SE Sudheendra, chairman of the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board, and Fr Victor Lobo S J, vice chancellor of St Joseph University, at a meeting in Bengaluru.

Bengaluru