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## EU, Icrisat unveil rural development project

Hyderabad, Jan 29, 2013 DHNS:

The European Union and the Indian consortium led by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics ( Icrisat) on Tuesday unveiled a project “Water 4 Crops-India” at the Icrisat campus here in Patancheru.

The project is aimed at increasing crop productivity, livelihoods of small farmers and rehabilitation of degraded lands in India and the European Union.

Under this project –in which the department of Bio Technology is investing 6 million Euros for the bio treatment component— treated domestic and industrial waste water (grey water) will be recycled.

The project, a mirror image of EU’s Water 4 Crops component, is comprises 21 consortium partners led by the Istituto di Ricerca Sulle Acque-Consiglio Nazionale delle Recherché (IRSA-CNR), Department of Bari, Italy.

“Following our success in rainwater harvesting and management, we will lead the Indian consortium in venturing into recycling domestic and industrial waste water for agricultural use to improve the livelihoods of the rural poor particularly those in the country’s dryland areas,” Icrisat Director General Dr William D Dar said.

“Used water is not waste water; it is a source of energy and irrigation water. This multi-disciplinary project is the most relevant for present day conditions,” added Dr Antonio Lopez, Director, CNRS, and EU Consortium.

The Indian side of the consortium will be working on three types of industrial waste water mainly from Charminar Breweries of SABMiller, in Andhra Pradesh, the Onion and Fruit Processing plant at JISL, Jalgaon in Maharashtra and the Sugar factory from Ugar Sugar in Karnataka.

On the other hand, treatment of domestic waste water will be studied and used in Hyderabad, Kola in Karnataka and Nagpur in Maharashtra along with saline waste waters in industries in then coastal regions.

Dr Suhas P Wani, project director of the Indian consortium, said that they will be looking into creating a perfect business model adoptable even at panchayat level so that farmers also earn revenue from the project.