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EU and India kick-off 6 million Euros 'Water 4 crops'

R. Avadhani

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PATANCHERU (MEDAK DISTRICT): India and European Union have jointly launched an innovative project here on Tuesday that could transform as a good green business in the near future.

The project, named as 'Water 4 Crops – India' was formally launched here at International Crops Research Institute for the Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). The project was aimed at recycling and reuse of treated waste water that would be collected from industries and households.

Under the project, the ICRISAT along with its consortium partners will be embarking upon recycling treated waste water (grey water) from domestic uses and industrial waste water. 22 partners from EU, 12 partners from India and two investment partners are taking part in implementing the project stretching a period of four years including two years of experimentation and validation.

ICRISAT has been leading the consortium of national partners in India. The initiative was a mirror of EU's Water4Crops project composed of 21 consortium partners led by the Istituto di Ricerca Sulle Acque – Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (IRSA-CNR), department of Bari, Italy.

Disclosing these details at a press conference, ICRISAT Director General Willam Dar, project head in India Dr. Suhas P Wani and European Union project head Dr. Antonio Lopez said that the project would address problems of reusing waste water, supplying of irrigation at dryland areas and meeting the requirement of farmers.

Dr. Lopez said that the usage of word 'waste water' was wrong and it should be called as 'used water' as terminology itself would create some psychological resistance. Stating that this was a multi-discipline project, he said efforts would put in place to address issues like how to utilise used water. He has informed that focus would be on realistic application of upgraded technology at field level.

Dr. Suhas P Wani said that this would become a good environmental business as it would address the problems of waste water, lack of irrigation at dryland areas and providing an opportunity for farmers for cultivation despite irrigation water supply problem.

Dr. Willam Dar said that water reuse is of critical importance to the semi-arid regions of the world. "We will now lead the Indian consortium in venturing into recycling industrial and domestic waste water for agricultural use to improve the livelihoods," he said.

Dr Shilja Vaidya Gupta, Director, International Cooperation, DBT, and Meenakshi Sharma, Vice-President, SABMiller, India, were also present.

Posted by Avadhani at 2:37:00 pm 

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