

UDUPI DISTRICT BIOFUEL INFORMATION AND DEMONSTRATION CENTRE, NITTE

Karnataka State Biofuel Development Board (KSBDB) Bengaluru sponsored Biofuel Information and Demonstration Centre (BIDC) has been established at Nitte and is run by the Department of Biotechnology Engineering, NMAMIT Nitte. This centre is one among the 37 Information and Demonstration Centres instituted by KSBDB in Karnataka. The centre was inaugurated by Honorable Chief Minister of Govt. of Karnataka then, Sri D.V. Sadananda Gowda on 18 November 2011. Udupi district BIDC is responsible for production of biodiesel from various non-edible oil seeds available in Udupi district, create awareness, disseminate information about biofuels amongst the scientific community, students, farmers and public and give demonstration, technical know-how about biodiesel production. The objectives of BIDC also include develop plantation for local breeds of biofuel plants, conduct research on biofuel processes, involving NGOs in the awareness programs. The byproducts of biodiesel production cake and glycerol have commercial application. Oil cake can be used as manure in the farm; some oil cakes (non-toxic) can be used as cattle feed. Glycerol is used in soap manufacturing. Production of biodiesel from locally available non-edible oil seed and its utilization gives eco-friendly fuel, adds revenue to the farmers, reduces foreign exchange, reduces dependence on foreign countries for fuel and improves rural employment. The BIDC at Nitte has a capacity of producing 50liter of biodiesel per batch which requires about 10-12 hours. UBIDC also houses a testing lab for Biodiesel testing where major 5 parameters (Acid value, Viscosity, Density, Flash point and Copper strip corrosion) are tested. Dr. C. Vaman Rao, Prof. and Head, Department of Biotechnology Engineering is the Chief Project Coordinator of BIDC Nitte.