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Date: 27th December 2021

To,
Smt Nirmala Sitharaman
Hon'ble Finance Minister
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Subject: Continuation of National Biogas-Bioenergy & Waste to Energy projects under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy over the period of 2021-22 to 2025-26

Introduction

1. Confederation of Biomass Energy Industry of India (CBEII) is the apex industry body which represents all stakeholders of the Biomass industry including Biogas, 2G-Ethanol, Briquettes & Pellets manufacturers, Biomass IPPs, Industry segments, etc.
2. Senior and esteemed industry leaders are part of CBEII's Governing Council and Executive Committee thereby providing direction and guidance to its activities and members furthering the cause of sustainable green bioenergy in India.
3. We continue to represent our members and the society at large with various policy makers, regulators, and society influencers for assisting the Biomass industry in India which is a sunrise sector and therefore there is need to understand the potential applications better & engage for appropriate policy interventions from time to time.

Background

4. With reference to the above, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy is pioneer in promoting Biogas and Bioenergy schemes under your leadership as detailed given below:
 - a) New national Biogas and Organic Manure Programme (NNBOMP) where small family type biogas plants are being promoted only in rural area for small dairy farmers to replace firewood and LPG. Millions of farmers are using this scheme since last 50xYears.



- b) Biogas Power Generation (Off Grid) and Thermal Energy Programme (BPTGP) is being utilizing by big dairy farmers, Poultry Farmers, *Goushala's*, etc and are generating captive power for their own farm, thousands of such projects are running successful across India and supporting farmers in terms of decentralized power and additional Income from organic manure and liquid manure to support dairy and poultry.
- c) Waste to Energy (WTE) Policy for supporting of distillery, starch, Milk Processing Industry based power generation projects and compressed Biogas Projects under SATAT scheme wherein the CFA for such projects is processed through MNRE.
- d) Bagasse based Power generation projects for Sugar Industry for Grid connections.
- e) Biomass IPPs.
- f) Biomass densification plants, for biomass briquettes & pellets manufacturing thereby creating rural entrepreneurship, rural jobs & skilling of rural youth with a focus on utilization of agri-waste, mitigate open field burning. In this segment, the National Biomass Mission under the aegis of Ministry of Power is focused for the reduction in usage of coal with equal impetus on the increase in use of biomass by co-firing.

Request for your kind attention

- 5. All above mentioned schemes are under review for continuation since 01st April' 2021 with Ministry of Finance, Govt of India (through MNRE). Presently MNRE is not accepting any new proposal as result of which many projects of dairy and poultry farmers are on hold due to this policy decision and quicker decision making & faster turnaround is necessary for the project implementation on the ground. *The role of MNRE as an enabler for supporting the biomass-bioenergy sector is crucial & role of Ministry of Finance to support such schemes and projects towards sustainable biomass-bioenergy.*
- 6. All Policies are beneficial to farmers in rural area and playing important role in socio economic development, millions of LPG cylinders and huge quantity of wood is being saved by family size biogas plants. Rural area is having only 8xHours of power for agriculture and this Biogas based power generation scheme is supporting dairy and poultry farmers by replacement of diesel, thus contributing towards the SDG's and ESG mandates which India has announced globally and helps in reducing the fossil fuel carbon.
- 7. Considering the benefits of this policy, from CBEII we strongly request your good offices to continue with the Biogas, Bioenergy and Waste to Energy policy of MNRE- Govt of India (through the financial support being accorded to the sector) in the best interest of the farmers, rural projects, farmer oriented energy linkages, waste to wealth, rural decentralized energy projects to be encouraged & above all meeting the aspirations of rural youth for job creation, skill development & clean-green energy generation. *The essence of Hon'ble PM's speech & Hon'ble FM budget speech of "Ann Data se Oorja Data" lies in actualizing the use of agri-waste towards energy generation & energy utilization.*



8. We on behalf of CBEII and the biomass industry, seek time from your good office to have a detail discussion as an industry body on each of the project schemes enumerated in this letter and urge your good offices to continue with the support and guidance this biomass-bioenergy industry needs from MNRE.
9. Looking forward for your positive response.

Jai Hind!

Kind regards,

Monish Ahuja

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