

Fortum, Haryana University to make textile fibre from paddy straw

NEW DELHI: Finnish firm Fortum India signed an agreement with Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar to make textile fibre from paddy straw that is otherwise burnt by the farmers causing pollution in northern states. The memorandum of understanding aims to protect the environment and to provide simple and economical options for the farmers to manage paddy straw, an official statement said. Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University has been working towards the management of paddy straw and, Fortum's partnership with HAU will include to deepen understanding of the theoretical and practical knowledge and expertise in the areas of studying the properties of rice straw and other agri-biomass, its availability, socio economic impact, probable supply chain and other possible area of support, in the State of Haryana, an official statement said.

Prof K.P. Singh, Vice Chancellor, HAU, while expressing his thoughts over the MoU, said, "This will give more thrust to the university's crop residue management program. The university is striving not only for the proper management of crop residues but also for the fair value of everything coming out of the farm." The statement said it is noteworthy that there is a serious problem of managing paddy straw in the states of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Some farmers burn crop residues and destroy them, causing environmental pollution. Sanjay Aggarwal, Managing Director of Fortum India Private Limited said, " Burning of crop residues on a large scale in the fields emits greenhouse gas which has huge side effects on the environment. In three states in the Delhi region, 50 million tonnes of agrobiomass is burned every year. We intend to convert this agricultural waste into valuable products, provide solutions to reduce pollution, which will help local communities to become self-sufficient and raise their standard of living." "We will work with the university to make textile fiber from paddy straw, as well as other valuable chemicals which are used in many industries, to make bioplastics and to establish bio refinery in the future.", he further added.

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