



## Scheme for Used Cooking Oil

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On the occasion of **World Biofuel Day**, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas released the **Expression of Interest (EOI) for procurement of biodiesel made from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)**.

- The entrepreneurs setting up **biodiesel plants (using used cooking oil as their raw material)** to get remunerative price and assurance of complete offtake of production by the oil companies **for the purpose of blending with normal diesel**.
- The Minister also launched a **'Repurpose Used Cooking Oil (RUCO)' sticker** and a phone app to enable the collection of used cooking oil.
  - Restaurants and hotels interested in supplying used cooking oil can affix the sticker to show availability.

### Background

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- The announcement comes just a day after the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** directed Food Safety Commissioners to ensure that Food Business Operators (FBOs), whose **consumption of edible oils for frying is more than 50 litres per day, stop reusing the oil more than three times**.
  - FSSAI is **planning to launch a mobile app for tracing and tracking used cooking oil**.
  - FSSAI is also planning to ask cooking oil manufacturers to come out with colour charts (either on the product or in a booklet along with the product) that will help people to identify if the oil is fresh or re-used.
- The order is aimed at ensuring that reused cooking oil is neither directly used in food preparation nor re-enters the food chain i.e. to set in safety standards in the food industry.
  - When used multiple times, cooking oil becomes acidic** and darkens in colour. This may alter the fatty acid composition of the oil.

### Other Initiatives Taken for Boosting Production of Biofuels

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- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is working on a four-pronged strategy in this regard -promoting Ethanol, 2-G ethanol, Compressed Biogas (CBG) and Bio-diesel.
- The ethanol blending in Petrol has gone up from 1% to about 8% and is likely to touch 10%.
- **The Budget 2019-20** underlined the transformation of farmers from *Annadata to Urjadata*.

The Government is **planning to allow production of ethanol from surplus food grains** which sometimes go waste and also entail expenditure on storage.
- The **City Gas Distribution (CGD)** network is being set up in over 400 districts which will give a big fillip to the use of CBG.
  - Biogas is purified to remove carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulphide gases to prepare CBG.
  - CBG has calorific value and other properties similar to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and hence can be utilized as green renewable automotive fuel.

**Source: PIB**