



Scheme for Used Cooking Oil

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

- 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

- 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](#)

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