

THE TIMES OF INDIA

RUCO Express launched in Dehradun, to collect used cooking oil & convert it into biofuel

TNN | Dec 7, 2019

DEHRADUN: With an aim to collect used cooking oil and convert it into biofuel, a Repurposed Used Cooking Oil (RUCO) van was flagged off in the city on Friday. The RUCO Express is a joint initiative of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and GATI Foundation. The RUCO van will collect used cooking oil from residents, bakers, restaurants, and sweet shop owners of the city. The collected oil will be sent to IIP where scientists will convert the same into bio-fuel. IIP has announced to purchase the used cooking oil at Rs 20 per kilogram. Notably, IIP is the only organisation in the world that converts cooking oil into biofuel at room temperature.

Dr Pankaj Pandey, FDA secretary and the chief guest of the event, said that re-using used cooking oil harms human health and hence there is a need for mass awareness. With greater public participation, we can ensure that more and more used cooking oil is converted into bio-fuels.

Besides FDA official Ganesh Kandwal and GATI Foundation member Anoop Nautiyal, more than 12 hotel/restaurant owners, including Kumar Sweets, Anandam Sweets, Aerodine Restaurant, and Ellora's Bakery, also attended the event.

In his address, Kandwal pointed out that FSSAI has also framed guidelines regarding use of

cooking oil in restaurants and the owners of eateries should adhere to them. “No cooking oil should be used more than three times. Also, if oil’s Total Polar Compound (TPC) level crosses 25%, then too it should be avoided. After each use, the cooks should filter the oil to segregate the food particles that are left in the oil,” he said.

Anjan Ray, director of CSIR-IIP, stressed how important used cooking oil can be for making biofuel. He explained how the bio diesel prepared from used cooking oil can be a great alternative of conventional diesel. The bio-fuel will cause less pollution, increase the life span of the engine, and hence of the vehicle.

Senior scientist from CSIR-IIP Neeraj Atray, who patented the idea of preparing bio-diesel from used cooking oil at room temperature, spoke about the process of conversion. “We simply place the used cooking oil in the set-up we have at our institute. Then the transesterification is carried out in presence of an alkaline catalyst,” he said.