

Biomass for cleaner environment

In Malaysia, the main supply of biomass is from oil palm plantations, spread over an area of 3.6 million ha, that produce about 35 million t/y of biomass in the form of trunks, fronds and empty fruit bunches. At present, most of the oil palm waste is disposed off by burning them in open fields. To overcome the negative environmental impact of this practice, the government plans to produce 5 per cent of the nation's energy from oil palm waste. According to Dr. Yusof Basiron, Director General of Malaysian Palm Oil Board, the government ban on open burning of oil palm waste would force the industry to find a profitable use for the waste. Additionally, incentives such as rebates, tax exemption and regulations are expected to induce all the sectors, especially large industrial concerns, to employ environment-friendly energy use.

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