

Webinar on “Waste to Wealth – Adding Value to Crop Residues” on 31st August 2021 at ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research, Pune as part of “Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav”

ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research, Pune organized a webinar with the theme “Waste to Wealth – Adding Value to Crop Residues” in a befitting manner as part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav on 31st August 2021. The webinar was undertaken virtually, where resource persons with vast experience and expertise discussed various technologies that address conversion of different agricultural and industrial wastes into valuable resources like biochar, bioethanol, handmade papers, moulded products and alternate growing media. The programme was held in the presence of Dr. K.M. Indires, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, UHS, Bagalkot and Dr. K.V. Prasad, Director, ICAR-DFR, Pune.

Dr. K.V. Prasad, Director, ICAR-DFR, Pune in his introductory remarks highlighted about the importance of crop residue management and interventions being undertaken by ICAR-DFR in collaboration with ICAR-CIRCOT to utilize crop residue like cotton waste into useful biodegradable portrays for ornamental nursery industry. He emphasized on the work being conducted at ICAR-DFR on utilization of industrial and agricultural by-products as growing media for ornamental plants as an alternative to precious soil. He also shared with the gathering that this work got the recognition of Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship of Government of India under Waste to Wealth Mission.

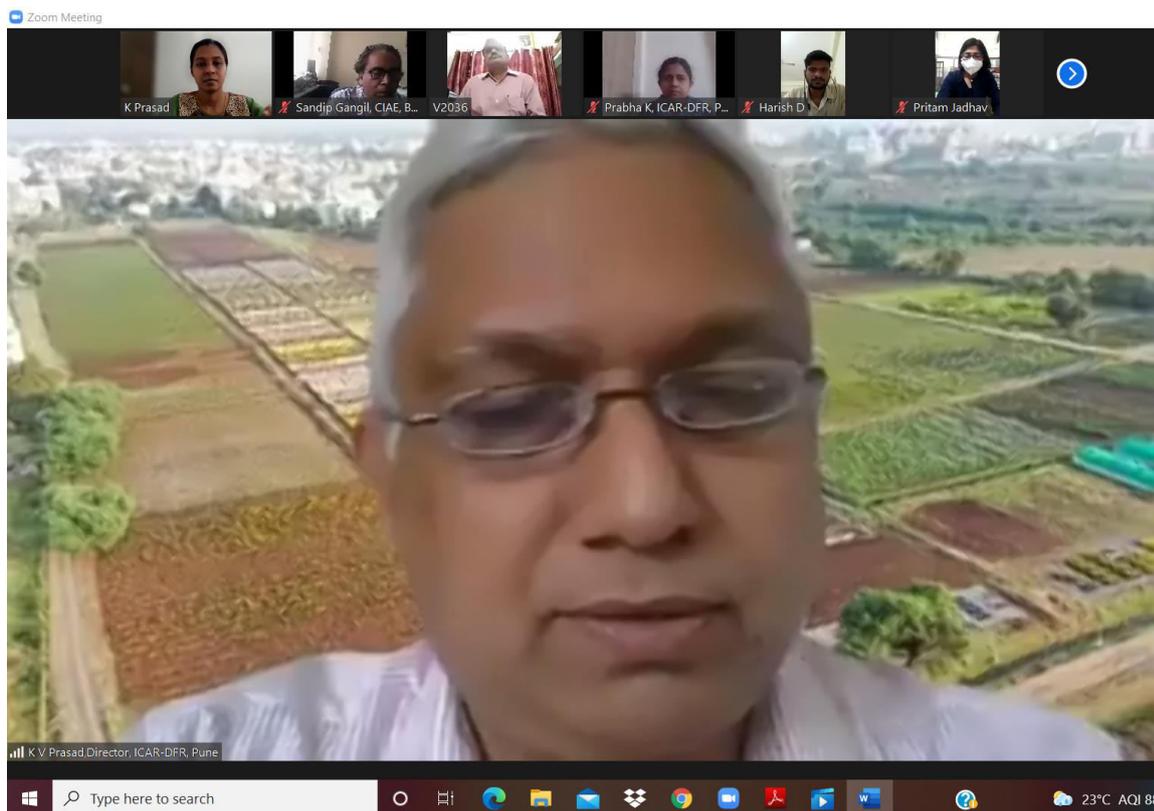
Dr. K.M. Indires, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, UHS, Bagalkot expressed his happiness to be a part of the webinar and highlighted that discussion and knowledge sharing about the technologies that address conversion of crop residues into resources is need of the hour. He shared with the gathering that UHS, Bagalkot is also working on the similar lines of utilizing expired capsules to deliver biopesticides.

Dr. Sandip Gangil, Head (Agricultural Energy and Power Division), ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal explained in detail about the mechanisms and technologies employed in biochar production, concept of designer biochar and biochar reactors developed by ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal and other research institutes. Dr. N. Vigneshwaran, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Microbiology), ICAR-CIRCOT, Mumbai highlighted various technologies developed by ICAR-CIRCOT to process the fibre biomass of cotton stalks, cotton linters, banana fibre and

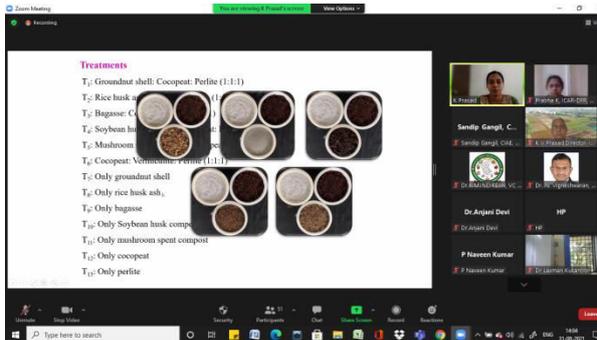
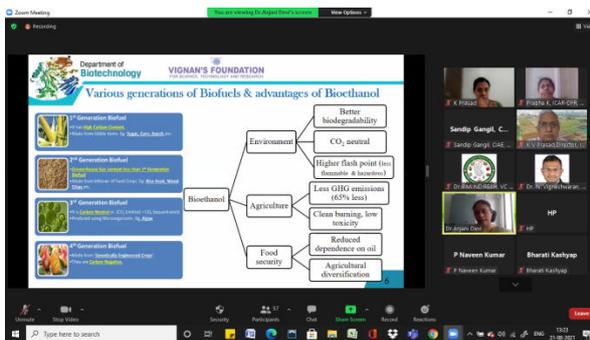
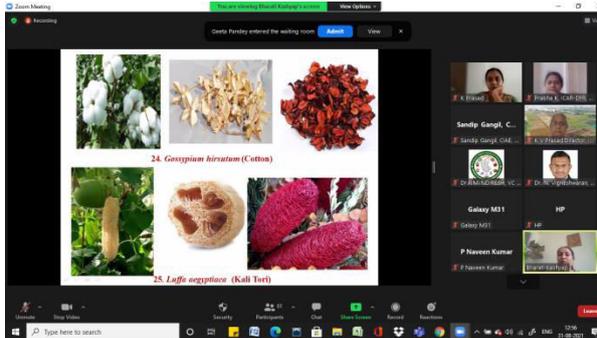
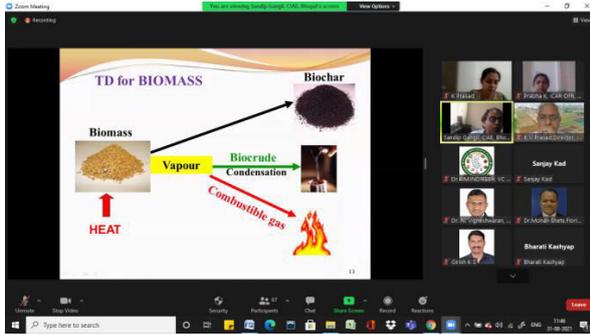
coconut fibre into micro fibrillated cellulose, nanocellulose, nano lignocellulose and production of moulded products like portrays and pots using these for use in ornamental nursery industry as an alternative to plastic. Mr. Pramod B. Deshpande, Instructor, Handmade Paper Institute, Pune informed the gathering about the possibility of utilization of flower petals in handmade papers. Dr. Anjani Devi Chintagunta, Associate Professor, Dept. of Biotechnology, Vignana's Foundation for Science, Technology & Research, Guntur explained about the importance of ethanol production in our country and technology employed in production of ethanol from pineapple leaf waste and potato peel. Dr. Bharati Kashyap, Associate Professor, Dept. of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture, Dr. YSPUHF, Solan presented elaboratively about conversion of agricultural crop residues, weeds and fallen leaves of pine and other trees into everlasting dry flower products. Dr. Shilpa Shree, K.G, Scientist (Soil Science), ICAR-DFR, Pune explained about utilization of industrial (fly ash and pressmud) and agricultural (groundnut shells, rice husk ash, bagasse, soybean husk compost, mushroom spent compost) by-products to formulate alternative growing media for ornamental plants. All the participants appreciated ICAR-DFR for successfully organizing the webinar on such an important topic and imparting knowledge to the students about some of the technologies that address conversion of agricultural wastes into valuable resources.



Dr. K.M. Indires, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, UHS, Bagalkot sharing his views during the webinar on “Waste to Wealth – Adding Value to Crop Residues”



Dr. K.V. Prasad, Director, ICAR-DFR, Pune presenting introductory remarks during the webinar on “Waste to Wealth – Adding Value to Crop Residues”



Invited experts highlighting about the technologies that address conversion of agricultural wastes into valuable resources during the webinar.