



BASAI News Updates

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Crop at risk, apple growers halt work on power project

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TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, MARCH 31

Fruit growers have forced the authorities to temporarily stop work at Luhri Stage-1 Hydro Electric Project, Neerath, near Rampur, claiming dust emanating from the site due to blasting is affecting pollination in apple.

“Apple trees are in full bloom and fruit will be set in another 10 days. However,

dust is settling on the flowers and is affecting pollination, which will hit the yield,” said Sandeep Shroal, pradhan, Thanadar panchayat.

“The SJVN Ltd, which is building the project, had been ignoring our requests to stop blasting for 10 days. So we forced them to stop the work,” he said.

Protesters claim fruit growers of 13 panchayats of the Kullu, Rampur and Kotgarh

DUST FROM BLASTING POSES THREAT TO FRUIT



- Orchardists fear dust clouds rising from Rampur project site in Shimla dist may hit pollination
- They claim SJVN ignored their requests to stop blasting for 10 days
- To ensure work remains stalled, 13 panchayats begin dhama at the site

areas were affected. To ensure that the work remains stalled, the panchayats have begun a dharna at the site for the next

10 days. “On our first day of the protest, no one from the company approached us,” said Kaku Ram, vice prad-

han, Shamathla panchayat. “In lower altitudes, stone fruit has been badly damaged by dust. We are now fighting to save the apple crop. Our livelihood depends on the yield. We can’t remain mute spectators to the destruction unleashed by the project,” he said. RL Negi, an official of the SJVN, said, “We have already installed sprinklers and will take more steps to control the dust.”

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Rice exporter develops device to curb pollution

PARVEEN ARORA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, MARCH 31

In a bid to reduce industrial pollution, a Karnal-based exporter has claimed to have developed a mechanical device using absorbent to capture carbon dioxide (CO₂) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). The machine will also reduce the temperature of the emission gases by two-thirds.

Vijay Setia, managing director of Chaman Lal Setia Exports Ltd. and former president of All India Rice Exporters Association (AIREA) and Ravi Saroj, from IIT Kharagpur have jointly developed this mechanism.

The developers took around two-year to come up with the machine. Now, after a trial of around three weeks they have filed a patent



The device will capture carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide and reduce temperature of waste gases. FILE PHOTO

INNOVATION

“Through mechanical design, the flue gas (sometimes called exhaust gas or stack gas) coming out from the boiler are passed on the device that is based on a special adsorbent. The adsorbent captures unburnt carbon and other inflammable particles that can be later used as a fuel. I have filed for a patent.

Vijay Setia, DEVELOPER

regarding the device.

“We want to remove toxic and greenhouse gases from the gaseous waste coming out of the industry units. For this we have developed a

mechanical system which can be installed in the emission line. The gas adsorbent fitted in the device act as a filter which cleans the gases and also reduces the temper-

ature,” said Setia.

“I have filed a patent. Once the device is patented, I will encourage industrialists to adopt this device,” added Setia.

Mentioning about the working mechanism, he said through mechanical design, the flue gas (sometimes called exhaust gas or stack gas) coming out from the boiler are passed on the device that is based on a special adsorbent. The adsorbent captures unburnt carbon and other inflammable particles that can be later used as a fuel, he added.

Many industries discharge harmful materials and gases such as ash, fine particles of incomplete combustion, carbon, and nitric oxides. These can also lead high temperature in the adjacent areas.

The developers believe this mechanism will help in reducing the pollution and also the dependency on compressed natural gas and piped natural gas.