

A great opportunity in prospective management of rice husk

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ABSTRACT

India is a major rice producing country and the husk generated during milling is mostly used as a fuel in the boilers for processing paddy, producing energy through direct combustion or by gasification. Rice milling industry generates a lot of rice husk during milling of paddy which comes from the fields. About 20 million tones of rice husk ash is produced annually. Lots of ways are being thought of for disposing them by making commercial use of this RHA. A reliable and readily available energy supply is critical for economic development. Bringing renewable and sustainable energy supplies to areas of rural India can help people to escape from a cycle of poverty. During milling of paddy about 78 per cent of weight is received as rice, broken rice and bran. Rest 22 per cent of the weight of paddy is received as husk. This husk is used as fuel in the rice mills to generate steam for the parboiling process. This husk contains about 75 per cent organic volatile matter and the balance 25 per cent of the weight of this husk is converted into ash during the firing process, known as rice husk ash (RHA). This RHA in turn contains around 85 - 90 per cent amorphous silica. So for every 1000 kgs of paddy milled, about 220 kgs (22 %) of husk is produced and when this husk is burnt in the boilers, about 55 kgs (25%) of RHA is generated.

KEY WORDS : Technology upgradation, Energy, Power generation, Rice husks, Fluidized bed combustion

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