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PRESS RELEASE

The briquettes as an alternative source of fuel to conserve the environment.

The college has come up with a basic technology that can be adopted at family level to manufacture briquettes using crop residues such as sugarcane tops and trash, coffee and rice husks, bean wastes, maize stalks, grass, leaves and small branches. This is aimed at reducing stress on the environment.

The technology involves carbonizing of waste materials in a kiln to produce a substance called carbon char. The carbon char is crashed into powder mixed with melted molasses as a binder to mold the briquettes. The manufactured briquettes are to be packaged for supply in the supermarket.

The briquettes come with special attributes of non remittance of the black smoke and is loaded with 19 MJ/kg DM of that briquette giving a full load of energy, recycled from agricultural by products and therefore not only easing on the pollution and linking the industry to the farmers but also diversifying on the sellable product from a single commodity sugar cane..

This is the technology that should be able to reach the sugar cane farmers where all the trees have been cut in favor of sugar cane production who are in dire need of alternative energy sources. The major challenge though is designing appropriate and low cost machinery that can be affordable by the smallholder farmers.

One kilogram of the briquettes costs 2,500/=. For those interested in venturing into production, you need to order for a kiln whose price will depend on the size ordered.

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