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SRI LANKA'S FIRST INDUSTRIAL BIOGAS PLANT TO BE CONSTRUCTED

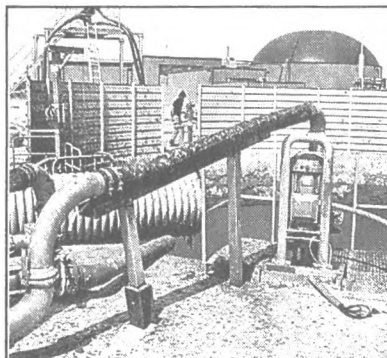
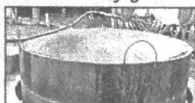
The German Cultural Centre in Colombo (Goethe-Institute), the Ruhuna University and Ambewela farms are joining together to construct an industrial level bio gas plant for the first time in Sri Lanka with the assistance of German scientists to generate electricity.

Biogas technology which is getting wider popularity in developed and developing countries including India, China, and European Union etc. as a green energy source seems to create a big revolution in the years to come as a viable option to address the world burning issues in energy and waste management sectors. The potential of the biogas technology is enormous since it could have three fold fronts to address the energy crisis by resolving the mess in waste management while producing energy and organic fertilizer for agriculture without leaving any traces of harmful by products which can add to the environment degradation.

Biogas is produced as a result of

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- Biogas typically refers to a gas produced by the biological breakdown of organic matter in the absence of oxygen.
- Biogas originates from biogenic material and is a type of biofuel.
- One type of biogas is produced by anaerobic digestion or fermentation of biodegradable materials such as biomass, manure or sewage, municipal waste, green waste and energy crops[1].
- This type of biogas comprises primarily methane and carbon dioxide.
- The other principal type of biogas is wood gas which is created by gasification of wood or other biomass.



a simple biotechnology, which does not use any chemicals or hazardous materials other than exploiting naturally existing anaerobic bacteria.

These bacteria has an ability to decompose complex organic materials in an oxygen-free environment to get the energy for their survival by liberating bio gas as by products.

The Goethe-Institut Sri Lanka, GAASL and the Department of Agric. Engineering, University of Ruhuna took up the latter's research (there since 1998) and co-operate with the aim of establishing bio gas as a source of locally available and renewable energy in Sri Lanka since 2006.

Under the leadership of Richard Lang, director Goethe-Institut Sri Lanka commenced a dialogue on waste management in the country and adoption of the Biogas technology as a viable option to address the waste management problem and fertilizer issues.

The main know-how input comes from the Bavarian National Institute for Agriculture, and its Deputy Director, Dr. Andrea Gronauer.

All these partners will cooperate first at the Ruhuna University during a seminar followed by a practical assessment and workshop at the Ambewela Farm from July 27 to the of August 4, 2009. Specialist

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- Mr. Lang will speak under the theme "The world goes green; Long term strategy and plan of the Goethe-Institute, Sri Lanka to help Sri Lanka to develop Bio Gas sector" with a historical review
- Dr. Andreas Gronauer, will make the Keynote address on "Biogas Technology, its adoption in Developed Countries, Opportunities for Developing countries."

and representatives from concerned authorities are invited to participate at the seminar in Mata-ra.

The construction of the first biogas plant to create electricity leads to the creation of new jobs for the people in the community. It will also uplift the quality of life, creating a cleaner environment for all, including tourists, who will find their stay in Sri Lanka more attractive and pleasant. This project will be implemented under the guidance of two international experts, Dr. Andreas Gronauer and Engineer Ulrich Gams. The workshop will be conducted in the Auditorium of the Dept. of Agric. Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture University of Ruhuna with the participation of the Vice Chancellor University of Ruhuna (Chief Guest), Prof. Susirith Mendis, Mr. Richard Lang (Director Goethe -Institut Sri Lanka - German Cultural Centre), Dr. Andreas Gronauer, Prof.(Mrs.) Takshila Serasinghe (Dean, Faculty of Agriculture), Dr. Ajith de Alwis, University of Moratuwa (Chairman Biogas Association), Heads of the Departments (Faculty of Agriculture) and invitees from NERD center, Practical Action, and many more institutions.