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CSIR-NIIST's anaerobic waste digester to aid Clean City drive

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Offering a solution to the burning garbage issue in the city, CSIR's National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) has developed an anaerobic digester to convert household organic kitchen waste to biogas.

The technology will be utilised by Thiruvananthapuram Corporation as part of its clean city drive. A company based in Pune had approached NIIST for the technology transfer and it was handed over to it here on Monday.

The technology was developed by the NIIST team led by senior scientist Dr. V B Manilal. "Each anaerobic digester has a capacity to convert up to 3kg per day bio-degradable kitchen waste which will be converted to 400 litre biogas which can be used as fuel. In the process it will discharge about 2.5 litre manure which can be used for kitchen garden. It would cost around Rs 25, 000," Manilal told TOI. It will be available for purchase at two plants including one at Poojapura and another at Pappanamcode, he said.

Biodegradable wastes from kitchen contribute significantly to pollution, which demands immediate management and treatment. Treatment of putrescible waste in traditional aerobic digester creates foul smell and leachate discharge. A refined household wastes treatment mechanism is the need of the hour since the present municipal treatment plants suffer from many demerits. Therefore, anaerobic digester of NIIST is a suitable option for the effective treatment of biodegradable wastes at source, said NIIST director Dr A Ajayaghosh. On Monday, the anaerobic digester technology of NIIST was transferred to Pune

based Mailhem Ikos Environment Pvt Ltd, which is a global waste management conglomerate offering customized solutions in solid waste and waste water treatment and management. The Pune based company plans to develop the product at its unit in about two months.

At a function held at NIIST on Monday for the technology transfer to Pune based company CEO Amir Dighe, MLA O Rajagopal said such technological solutions to the problems of common man and he congratulated the scientists. City mayor Adv. V K Prasanth said that this technology will be a great help to the Trivandrum Corporation for its venture of cleaning the waste at source and exuded confidence to regain the glory of Trivandrum as a Clean city within a short time. Estate ward Councillor Vijayan A offered the felicitation.