

Regarding Ethanol production in the country-laid

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): India's ethanol production plan from foodgrains emphasizing worries about food security and water scarcity has a specific focus on embedded greenhouse gas emissions. The diversion of 78,000 tonnes of rice from the Food Corporation of India to ethanol production in 2021 exacerbates food scarcity. India's rank at 111 in Global Hunger Index 2023 highlights that allocating subsidized food grains for ethanol is unwarranted. Moreover, the water-intensive nature of sugarcane cultivation, a key ethanol source, is causing environmental strain, with 70% increase in irrigation demand leading to salinity and groundwater threats. Most importantly, the carbon intensity of ethanol production is 24% higher than traditional petrol, raising questions about the actual environmental benefits. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to review India's ethanol plan for its impact on food security, water scarcity, and the environment, thereby considering alternative strategies for cleaner energy in line with sustainability goals.