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Ques Do you think that the bio-fuel is an alternative and sustainable solution to farm fires in the country? Comment.

Ans Paddy stubble poses a major challenge in North India, as the quantity is humongous and collection windows are minuscule, necessitating mechanization with a high degree of efficiency and efficacy. With the availability of wheat straw for cattle fodder, farmers have no incentive to collect the stubble.

But there crop residues can actually be used to produce energy and biofuels. The global demand for modern forms of energy, and especially liquid biofuels, is rapidly growing, driven by environmental concerns and fluctuating oil prices.

Rice straw can be turned into other products. For example, Briquettes and pellets made from rice straw can practically replace coal in thermal power plant.

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It can be used to produce compressed biogas, which could replace natural gas in transport fuel.

There is also the potential for ethanol made from rice straw to be blended with petrol.

These alternatives give farmers economic incentives to keep from burning the waste and contributes to the government's aim to double farmer's income.

Food and Agriculture Organization, through its Bioenergy and food security (REFS) approach, provides countries with the guidance, tools and support to implement bioenergy strategies in sustainable ways, with minimal impact on the environment.

Sustainable use of biofuels for clean energy will not only reduce dependence on other carbon sources, but will also mitigate climate impact, increase farmer's income, reduce health hazards and improve soil biodiversity, thereby helping country achieves its CBD targets.