



केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE GOVT OF INDIA

**Speed Post**

EQ-11099/30/2022-AQM-HO-CPCB/ 9086-9123

January 30, 2024

To,

**The Member Secretary  
State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committee  
(All States/UTs)**

**Sub: Directions under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for comprehensive management of paddy straw and other agro residues – reg.**

**WHEREAS**, one of the functions under Section 17 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, of the State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees is to plan a comprehensive programme for the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution in the concerned State/UT and to secure execution thereof;

**WHEREAS**, Government of India launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 as a national level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country;

**WHEREAS**, 131 nos. of million plus/non-attainment cities (cities exceeding National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) consecutively for five years) have been identified in 24 States/UTs and City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared and rolled out for implementation in these 131 nos. of non-attainment/million plus cities under NCAP to improve the air quality;

**WHEREAS**, similar action is also required to be taken in other cities/areas for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution;

**WHEREAS**, while action is required to be taken for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution from various sources such as vehicles, road dust, construction activities, industries, action is also required to be taken simultaneously for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution caused by burning of agro residues;

**WHEREAS**, Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas, Ordinance, 2020 has been promulgated and notified by Government of India, vide which Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has been constituted for air quality management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas;

**WHEREAS**, the aforesaid CAQM has already issued directions mandating i) co-firing of biomass (5-10%) in coal based thermal power plants located within 300 km of Delhi, and, also in coal based captive power plants in Delhi-NCR, and, ii) use of either biomass or PNG as industrial fuel in Delhi-NCR including boilers, brick kilns etc. (except for industry specific requirement of other fuel owing to technical, technological or process requirements);

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**WHEREAS**, agro residues can be effectively utilized as alternate fuel as compared to coal in industries, thermal power plants, brick kilns etc. having benefits especially in terms of lower Particulate Matter emissions;

**WHEREAS**, vide notification dated 11th July,2023, MoEFCC has notified Environment (Utilisation of Crop residue by Thermal Power Plants) Rules, 2023., wherein all coal based thermal power plants of power generation utilities in Delhi-NCR shall mandatorily use minimum five per cent blend of pellets or briquettes made of crop residue along with coal failing which Environmental Compensation (EC) is payable as stipulated therein.

**WHEREAS**, agro residues based pallet utilization of minimum 5% blend along with coal for power generation through co-firing in coal based thermal power plants has also been mandated as per the policy modified on 16<sup>th</sup> June,2023 by Ministry of Power;

**WHEREAS**, financial assistance for setting up of palletization/ briquetting plants from agro residues is also provided for under the National Bioenergy Program of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy;

**WHEREAS**, there is also a need to promote in-situ & ex-situ management of paddy straw from agro residues as mandated by CAQM for Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas so that it is not burnt leading to air pollution;

**NOW THEREFORE**, in view of the above, and in exercise of the powers vested under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the following directions are hereby issued to SPCBs/ PCCs:

1. To assess generation of paddy straw and other agro residues in the respective State/UT and the quantity of such paddy straw and other agro residues which remain unmanaged through in-situ & ex-situ management.
2. To draw up an Annual Action Plan for utilizing unmanaged paddy straw and other agro residues so as to ensure that the same is not burnt or mismanaged.
3. Depending upon the quantity of unmanaged paddy straw and other agro residues in the State/UT and so as to manage the same, the following be also ensured:
  - (a) Thermal Power Plants, industries using boilers, Brick kilns etc., as applicable, be directed to also start using paddy straw and other agro residues as fuel in time bound manner as mentioned in the policy modified on 16<sup>th</sup> June,2023 by Ministry of Power.
  - (b) Setting up of agro residues especially paddy straw based palletization plants of adequate capacity be ensured in the State/UT.
  - (c) Taking other necessary in-situ & ex-situ agro residues management measures for promoting utilization of agro residues including paddy straw for other purposes also ensuring that the entire quantity of agro residues including paddy straw generated in the State/UT is comprehensively managed.

The State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees shall acknowledge receipt of these directions within a week and submit Action Taken Report within a month from issuance of these directions.

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**(Bharat Kumar Sharma)**  
Member Secretary

**Copy to:**

1. The Additional Secretary,  
CP Division,  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change  
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jorbagh Road  
New Delhi-110003

: For kind information of,  
please

2. All the concerned Regional Directorates of CPCB

: For information and follow-  
up with concerned SPCBs,  
please

✓ 3. Divisional Head, IT Division, CPCB

: For uploading at CPCB  
website, please

**(Bharat Kumar Sharma)**  
Member Secretary