



CLIMATE – NEWS

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ICFRE – CLIMATE CHANGE NEWS From the Biodiversity and Climate Change (BCC) Division, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, P.O: New Forest, Dehra Dun – 248006

CLIMATE CHANGE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CANADIAN CEMENT PLANT BECOMES FIRST TO CAPTURE CO₂ IN ALGAE

Ryan

7 April, 2010 Great New & Network

http://www.greatnewsnetwork.org/index.php/news/article/canadian_cement_plant_becomes_first_to_capture_co2_in_algae/

A Canadian company called Pond Biofuels is capturing CO₂ emissions from a cement plant in algae — algae the company ultimately plans on using to make biofuel. It's no secret that the process of manufacturing cement is both energy intensive and dirty. Global cement production alone emits roughly five percent of greenhouse gas emissions annually, both as a byproduct of limestone decarbonation (60%) and from the burning of fossil fuels in the cement kilns (40%). And as the demand for concrete-intensive infrastructure soars in developing countries like China and India, global emissions from cement plants—and other industrial sources—will continue to rise.

But a Canadian company called Pond Biofuels sees some real opportunity in all those industrial greenhouse gas emissions. At the St. Marys Cement plant in southwestern Ontario, Pond Biofuels has become the first to successfully use carbon dioxide emitted from a major industrial source to produce high value biomass from microalgae.

Pond Biofuels is capturing carbon dioxide and other emissions from a cement plant and using it to create a nutrient-rich algae slime which can be dried and used as a fuel.

OZONE HOLE DISCOVERER'S WARNING

Roger Harrabin

6 May, 2010 BBC Environment Analyst

http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/today/newsid_8664000/8664313.stm

The leader of the team which found the hole in the earth's protective ozone layer has urged world leaders to do more to safeguard the environment. Speaking to BBC News on the 25th anniversary of the reporting of the hole, Dr Joe Farman said the environment was still being recklessly damaged in many ways. He criticised politicians for failing to lead on issues like climate change - it was "damned stupid" to keep increasing emissions of CO₂ when we know it is a warming gas, he said. But, in a nod to climate sceptics, he also blamed the scientific establishment for failing to take specific criticisms of detailed climate science seriously enough. When Dr Farman's team at the British Antarctic Survey reported the ozone hole in 1985, it became a symbol of the earth's fragility and a rallying point for environmentalists. The ozone layer protects creatures from most of the sun, s harmful ultraviolet rays.

It was learned that the ozone was being eaten by chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), a family of chemical used mostly in aerosols and refrigerators.

Some manufacturers fought a rearguard action but the making of ozone-depleting chemicals was controlled within two years under the Montreal Protocol.

The limited use of ozone-depleters is still permitted, though, and the chemicals are long-lived in the atmosphere. So although the ozone damage has been halted, the hole may not fully heal until 100 years after it was discovered. Dr Farman [has strongly criticised governments](#) for failing to ensure that all the ozone-depleting chemicals are tracked down and destroyed, adding that some of the replacements for cfc's are potent greenhouse gases, too.

He says governments have failed to learn the lesson that they need to move swiftly and boldly on global threats to the environment like climate change. We do not need complex computer models to tell us we need to cut CO₂ emissions, he says. We cannot predict exactly how the climate will change in future but we know CO₂ is a warming gas, so we should quickly reduce emissions. "You ought to be able to convince people it's a damned stupid thing to increase CO₂ - clearly that must trap more energy," he says.

UK 'WILL PUSH EU ON CO2 TARGETS'

Richard Black

20 May, 2010 Environment correspondent, BBC News

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8694327.stm>

The UK government will push the EU to move to a higher target for cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

It will urge the EU to cut emissions by 30% from 1990 levels by 2020, rather than the current 20% target, partly through more support for renewable. A higher proportion of tax revenues will come from environmental taxes. The Conservative-Lib Dem coalition also confirmed there would be a free vote on fox-hunting and that badger culling was back on the agenda for England. The pledges are contained in the Programme for Government, This fleshes out the much shorter agreement released by party leaders David Cameron and Nick Clegg immediately after the confirmation of their coalition.

Recession proof

In 2009, EU leaders endorsed two targets for greenhouse gas emissions - 20%, rising to 30% in the event of a global deal on climate change. That failed to materialize at December's Copenhagen summit.

But the recession has lowered emissions across the continent, making the higher target more easily achievable. Environment groups have been lobbying governments to move to 30% immediately, to re-stake the EU's claim for global leadership on climate change - a call that the coalition has now endorsed. "It's good news," said Bryony Worthington, founder and director of the campaign group Sandbag, who developed the policy of carbon budgets adopted by the Labour government.

"We needed the UK to be strong on this, and there was some doubt about whether the government would push for 30%, which is badly needed. "If we stay at 20%. there doesn't appear to be any extra effort needed, and that doesn't sit well for the EU," she told BBC News. The UK would seek to meet its share of the 30% target partly through the scaling up of renewable energy. This would come partly through the introduction of feed-in tariffs, encouraging early adoption of technologies that at present cost more than fossil-fuel generation.

The government would also seek to set a "floor price" for carbon, and permit no new runways at Heathrow, Stansted or Gatwick airports; and there is confirmation on the establishment of a bank to stimulate "green" investment

CLIMATE CHANGE MAKING EVEREST MORE DANGEROUS: SHERPA

Sophia Tamot

25 May, 2010

<http://www.physorg.com/news194013334.html>

Nepalese climber Apa Sherpa poses near the Hillary Step while pushing for the summit of Mount Everest on May 22. Climate change is making Mount Everest more dangerous to climb, Sherpa said in Kathmandu after breaking his own record by making a 20th ascent of the world's highest peak.

Apa Sherpa, who dedicated his latest climb to the impact of global warming on the Himalayas, said he was disturbed by the visible changes on the mountain caused by rising temperatures. "The snow along the slopes had melted, exposing the bare rocks underneath,

which made it very difficult for us to walk up the slope as there was no snow to dig our crampons into," he told AFP . "This has made the trail very dangerous for all climbers."

Apa, 50, has been nicknamed the "super Sherpa" for the apparent ease with which he climbs Everest, but he was visibly exhausted as he spoke to journalists in the Nepalese capital three days after reaching the summit. He led an expedition aimed at raising awareness of the impact of **climate change** in the Himalayas and clearing up the tonnes of rubbish left on the mountain by previous expeditions. The team brought down 4.8 tonnes of rubbish from the mountain, some of which will be displayed at a festival to be held next month in the Everest region to highlight the problems of global warming.

Around 250 people scaled Mount Everest from the south side this year, Nepal's mountaineering department said, as heavy snow brought the brief climbing season to an early close. They said the weather on Everest had deteriorated since snow began falling on Sunday, ending a climbing season that has set a record for the youngest person ever to reach the top as well as the highest number of summits. "We have come to the end of the Everest season," mountaineering department official Tilak Pandey told AFP by telephone from Everest Base Camp on the south side of the mountain, which straddles Nepal and China.

METHANE IN GULF "ASTONISHINGLY HIGH": U.S. SCIENTIST

Julie Steenhuisen

22 June, 2010 Chicago

http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE65L6IA20100622?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2Fenvironment+%28News+%2F+US+%2F+Environment%29

(Reuters) - As much as 1 million times the normal level of methane gas has been found in some regions near the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, enough to potentially deplete oxygen and create a dead zone, U.S. scientists said. Texas A&M University oceanography professor John Kessler, just back from a 10-day research expedition near the BP Plc oil spill in the gulf, says methane gas levels in some areas are "astonishingly high."

Kessler's crew took measurements of both surface and deep water within a 5-mile (8 kilometer) radius of BP's broken wellhead. In some areas, the crew of 12 scientists found concentrations that were 100,000 times higher than normal. "We saw them approach a million times above background concentrations" in some areas, Kessler said. The scientists were looking for signs that the methane gas had depleted levels of oxygen dissolved in the water needed to sustain marine life.

"At some locations, we saw depletions of up to 30 percent of oxygen based on its natural concentration in the waters. At other places, we saw no depletion of oxygen in the waters. We need to determine why that is," he told the briefing.

Methane occurs naturally in sea water, but high concentrations can encourage the growth of microbes that gobble up oxygen needed by marine life. Kessler said oxygen depletions have

not reached a critical level yet, but the oil is still spilling into the Gulf, now at a rate of as much as 60,000 barrels a day, according to U.S. government estimates."What is it going to look like two months down the road, six months down the road, two years down the road?" he asked.

Methane, a natural gas, dissolves in seawater and some scientists think measuring methane could give a more accurate picture of the extent of the oil spill. Kessler said his team has taken those measurements, and is hoping to have an estimate soon."Give us about a week and we should have some preliminary numbers on that," he said

CLIMATE CHANGE NATIONAL NEWS

CLIMATE CHANGE CAN QUICKEN INDIA'S COASTAL WINDS

M Virat

21 May, 2010 EN

<http://www.scidev.net/en/climate-change-and-energy/climate-change-in-india/news/climate-change-can-quicken-india-s-coastal-winds-1.html>

NEW DELHI: Climate change would lead to higher wind speeds in offshore locations around India, a peninsula with long coastline, as an increase in the earth's temperature would mean a corresponding rise in air pressure and wind activity, says a new study.

Published this month (4 May) in *Ocean Engineering*, the study simulated the effect of climate change on design wind — the wind speed which can be equalled or exceeded once in a specific number of years — which is linked to the expected lifespan of harbour, coastal and offshore structures. "Future structures should be built considering the effects of climate change and safety of existing structures needs to be verified. When design wind changes, the corresponding forces change, and one needs to have stronger structures to withstand this," says Makarand Chintamani Deo, professor of civil engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai, and co-author of the study.

The model was built upon seven-year (1998-2005) wind observations made available by the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai. The data was collected through a floating device that measures met-ocean parameters, called a wave rider buoy, at two locations: one off Goa on the west coast, and the other off Machilipatnam, to the east.

For the two locations, the increase in a 100-year wind period, where the effect of climate change is taken into account, compared to when it is not, varied from 44 per cent to as much as 74 per cent. Deo agrees that the varying sample sizes — seven-year data to simulate 100-year speeds — could be a source of uncertainty in the results. But he told *SciDev.Net* that while "the magnitudes shown can vary owing to so many alternative methods to adopt, qualitatively the conclusion is difficult to change."

Deo has co-authored another paper to be presented at the Ninth International Conference on Hydro-Science and Engineering at IIT Chennai in August that, apart from wind speed, also simulates wave heights to incorporate the effect of climate change. Wave heights in this model are seen to be 25 per cent to 59 per cent higher than when the effect is not taken into account.

ICFRE NEWS

PARTICIPATION OF ICFRE IN THE ‘BONN CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS’ HELD ON BONN, GERMANY ON 9-11 APRIL, 2010

Shri V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist- D, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, participated in the “Bonn Climate Change Talks” held on Bonn, Germany from 9 to 11 April 2010. The meeting consists of the eleventh session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and the ninth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (AWG-LCA).

PARTICIPATION OF ICFRE IN UNFCCC MEETINGS

The ICFRE delegation, comprising Dr. G.S. Rawat, DG, ICFRE, and Shri V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist- D, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, participated in the thirty second sessions of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies from 31 May to 9 June 2010 and Twelfth session of the AWG-KP and Tenth session on the AWG-LCA from 1 June to 11 June 2010 held in Bonn, Germany.



ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF ICFRE - DOE BY UNFCCC

The CDM Assessment team (CDM-AT) from UNFCCC visited ICFRE Hqs from 30 April - 1 May 2010 for on-site assessment of ICFRE. ICFRE applied for Designated Operational Entity (DOE) status of UNFCCC in July 2009. Once granted the DOE status by UNFCCC, ICFRE will be accredited for validation and verification of CDM A/R projects.



UPCOMING EVENTS

AWG-KP 13 AND AWG-LCA 11

02 - 06 August, 2010 Bonn, Germany

The thirteen session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties of the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 13) and the eleventh sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 11).

INDIAN FORESTRY CONGRESS, 2010

15-18 December, 2010 to be organized by Forest Research Institute, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, P.O. New Forest, Dehradun 248006 Uttarakhand, India website: www.ifc2010.icfre.gov.in

Important dates

Submission of abstract:	15 th August, 2010
Early Registration:	30 th September, 2010
Communication regarding acceptance:	30 th September, 2010
Submission of full papers:	30 th October, 2010

Submission of abstracts and papers:

One –to- two page abstract, including the title, name of author (s), affiliation and key words, formatted in MSWord should be submitted by 15th August (mailing address: vrrsingh@icfre.org; sandeeptrip@icfre.org). Full papers will have to be submitted by 30th October 2010. The technical committee will sort out papers for oral or poster presentations. Best paper will be awarded during the congress.

WORKSHOP ON FOREST GOVERNANCE, DECENTRALISATION AND REDD IN LATIN AMERICA

31 August - 3 September, 2010 Mexico (Distrito Federal), Mexico
<http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/Events/CIFOR/decentralisation-red...>

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), with a number of government collaborators, are organizing a workshop with participants from government, development and environmental NGOs and local community and indigenous peoples representatives to discuss regional perspectives on REDD and develop a better understanding of how decentralisation and forest governance contribute to sustainable management of forests. The results are expected to feed into the 9th session of the UN Forum on Forests. CIFOR is a member of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GREEN HOUSE GAS CONTROL TECHNOLOGIES

19 - 23 September, 2010 Amsterdam (Noord-Holland), Netherlands
<http://www.ghgt.info/GHGT10.html>

This conference aims to provide a platform for dialogue on overcoming technical, legal and political barriers to the implementation of greenhouse gas mitigation technologies, focusing almost exclusively on carbon capture and storage (CCS). Among the ten conference themes are: developments in CCS technology; CCS infrastructure; relation between CCS and climate policy; legal aspects of CCS; public perception of CCS. The International Energy Agency (IEA) Greenhouse Gas R&D Programme is the guardians of the GHGT conferences, which are held every two years.

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