IFC to help power poultry, dairy farms

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has launched a programme to help poultry and dairy farms access clean electricity.

The aim of the programme is to cut the farms' operational costs by replacing diesel or kerosene to biogas and supporting the systematic expansion of the market for waste to energy.

Bangladesh Bank governor Atiur Rahman formally launched the 'Waste to Energy: Scale Up' programme at a city hotel Sunday.

Speaking as the chief guest, the BB chief said, waste to energy is an important concept for any efficient waste management system.

He said the central bank is planning to create a $500 million fund to provide assistance to green projects.

Dr Rahman said Bangladesh Bank has identified and included 47 green products in its refinancing scheme to accelerate financing of green initiatives.

"BB has created a Tk 2.0 billion revolving fund to support innovative green projects, such as, solar home system and irrigation pumps, solar PV module assembly plants, bio-gas and bio-fertiliser plants, solar mini grids, solid and liquid waste management, and so on," he added.

BB has also extended financing support to set up a world class 'Platinum' rated textile unit in Dhaka.

These are not only contributing to reduction of reliance on non-renewable energy sources, but also promoting environment-friendly production options, which is crucial for attaining a low carbon economy.

Danish Ambassador Hanne Fugl Eskjaer said Waste to Energy programme will provide power to the farms at a cheaper cost.

"It takes Tk 25 to produce per kilowatt diesel generated power whereas it is as high as only Tk 17 for biogas," she said.

Chandrasekhar Govindarajalu, IFC Senior Energy Specialist, Kyle F. Kelhofer, IFC Country Manager for Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan were also present at the programme.

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