

DaimlerChrysler, CSIR joins hand to produce bio-diesel

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Luxury car maker DaimlerChrysler on Monday joined hands with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to produce bio-diesel in India.

Total cost of the project, scheduled for five years, would be 600,000 Euros, out of which the German government would fund 200,000 Euro while the rest would be contributed by DaimlerChrysler AG, CSIR director general R A Mashelkar told a news conference.

The project will focus on trial operation with bio-diesel extracted from 'Jatropha' plants which are cultivated on eroded soils.

The trial would take place on a 'C Class' Mercedes car in October, DaimlerChrysler managing director Hans-Michael Huber said.

The basic idea behind the project was to demonstrate the feasibility of the 'Jatropha' bio-diesel in modern vehicles, Mashelkar said.

DaimlerChrysler AG, CSIR, the Hohenheim University (Germany) and DaimlerChrysler India would be the main stakeholders in the project, he said.

The 'Jatropha' plant, growing in many parts of the country, would be cultivated for the purpose mainly in Gujarat and Orissa.

Two tonne of 'Jatropha' seeds per hectare would be cultivated with 25-30 per cent yield which roughly translated into 500-750 kg of bio-diesel per hectare, Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute director Pushpito Ghosh said.