

# NSI set to produce ethanol from sugar-beet variety

HT Correspondent

hcitykanpur@hindustantimes.com

**KANPUR:** The National Sugar Institute (NSI) has initiated an innovative effort to produce ethanol with the help of a special variety of sugar-beet instead of sugarcane, the traditional source.

“Since the special variety of sugar-beet popular as LS-6 could be grown in the colder regions of Europe we have sowed it on the campus in November last and it would be harvested in the end of March this year for crushing purposes. The crushing would be done at the sugar factory situated on the institute’s campus,” said Narendra Mohan, director, NSI. He said if the experiment of producing ethanol from special variety of sugar-beet succeeded the technique would be introduced at the other sugar factories.

Besides, cultivation of special variety of sugar-beet would also be encouraged for ethanol pro-

## NOVEL EXPERIMENT

- Since the special variety of sugar-beet popular as LS-6 could be grown in the colder regions of Europe, the NSI is planning to produce ethanol from it.
- If the experiment succeeds, the technique would be introduced at other sugar factories.
- Cultivation of special variety of sugar-beet would also be encouraged for ethanol production.
- It was not economically viable to produce sugar from sugar-beet due to high production cost, but it could definitely be used for producing ethanol to meet the growing demand in the country.

duction, he added.

However, he said it was not economically viable to produce sugar from sugar-beet due to high production cost, but it could definitely be used for producing ethanol to meet the growing demand in the country.

He said at present as against the total demand of 156 crore litres of ethanol per annum in the country, the total production was around 80 crore litres per annum which was too meagre to cater to country’s need.

The institute has also decided to produce adequate sugar cane on its farm for producing sugar at its sugar factory.

“We have decided to produce about 7000 quintals of sugarcane at the farm of the institute and to buy only 800 quintals from the farmers for producing sugar. “So far, we have been making direct purchases of sugarcane from the private farmers but now the direct purchase of sugar from the framers would be discouraged,” the director said.