

# ASSESSING ASSESSING BIOMASS AVAILABILITY AND COMPRESSED BIOGAS (CBG) POTENTIAL IN MEERUT DISTRICT, UTTAR PRADESH



## **Authors**

Jaideep Saraswat, Nikhil Mall and Srinivas Ethiraj

## **Reviewer**

Srinivas Krishnaswamy

## **Researchers**

Dr. Preeti Singh, Naveen Kumar and Mradul Sharma

## **Geographic Information System Mapping**

Gourav Panchal, Suman Kumar, Amit Yadav and Dr. Akinchan Singhai

## **Editorial**

Rohin Kumar

## **Cover & Layout Design**

Aman kumar

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D-2, 2nd Floor, Southern Park, Saket District Centre,  
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**ASSESSING**  
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**AVAILABILITY AND COMPRESSED BIOGAS**  
**(CBG) POTENTIAL IN MEERUT DISTRICT,**  
**UTTAR PRADESH**

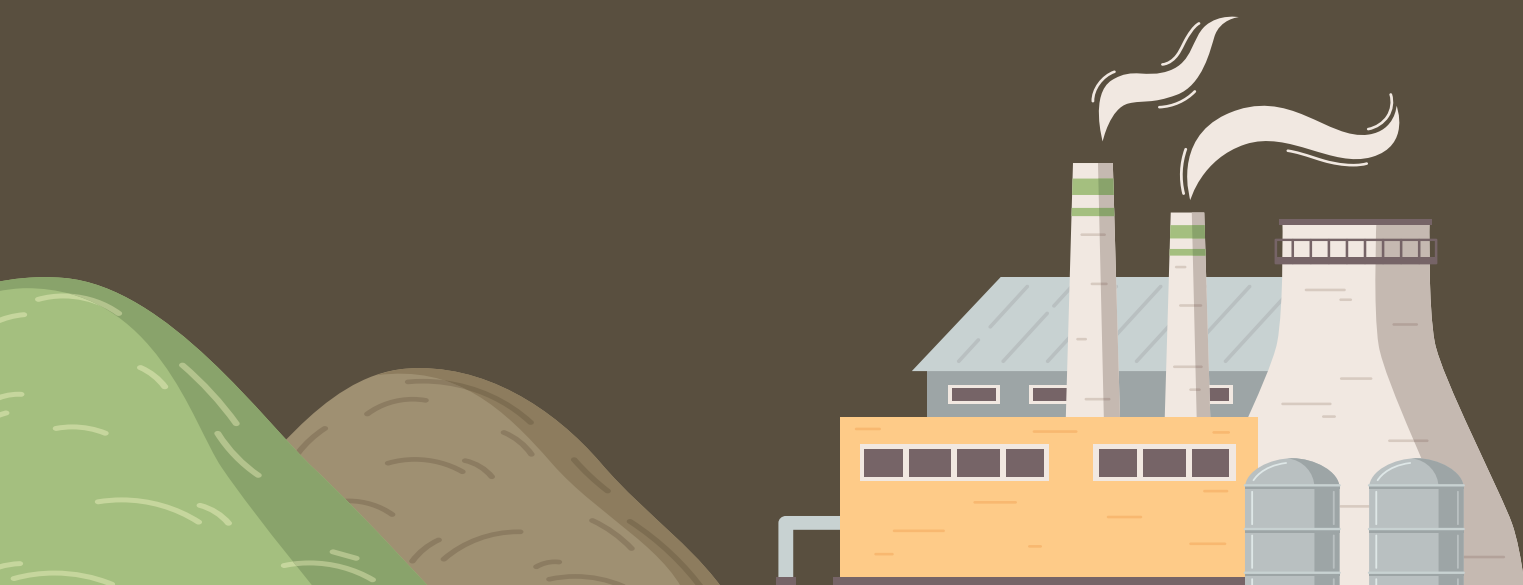


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# Executive Summary

India's energy demand is projected to triple by 2050, making the shift to renewable energy sources essential. Biomass energy presents a sustainable solution by converting organic waste into fuel, thus mitigating environmental concerns and enhancing energy security. Uttar Pradesh, particularly Meerut district, has significant potential for Compressed Biogas (CBG) production due to its agrarian economy and abundant biomass resources.

## Biomass Availability and CBG Potential in Meerut

The study utilised Geographic Information System (GIS) tools and field data collection to assess biomass availability in Meerut. Key findings include:

- › **Major Net Biomass Feedstocks:** Sugarcane Press Mud, Sugarcane Tops and Leaves, Paddy Straw and Cow Dung
- › **High-Potential Zones:** Meerut tehsil emerged as the top biomass source. Potential locations for CBG plants could be sited close to the sugar mills or sugar farms in these tehsils.
- › **CBG Generation Potential:** The district has the potential to generate approximately 148 tonnes per day (TPD) of CBG from major feedstocks, such as sugarcane tops and leaves, press mud and



cattle dung, thereby contributing to the goal envisioned under the SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) Scheme, which envisions installing 5,000 CBG plants by 2030.

**Table 1: Tehsil-wise, feedstock-wise CBG potential in TPD as per NIBE factors**

| Tehsil          | Sugarcane Press mud | Paddy Straw   | Cattle Dung   | Total         |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Mawana          | 52.27               | 0.56          | 0.75          | 3.64          |
| Meerut          | 33.35               | 15.59         | 0.31          | 3.744         |
| Sardhana        | 27.47               | 7.63          | 0.24          | 3.102         |
| Meerut District | 113.09              | 23.78         | 1.3           | 148.656       |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>28.237</b>       | <b>12.268</b> | <b>19.445</b> | <b>59.942</b> |

- › **Emission Savings:** Compressed Biogas is a sustainable alternative to traditional natural gas and therefore can replace it as an automotive fuel or in city gas distribution networks. This replacement can result in reduction of natural gas consumption and save carbon emissions. To put it in figures, a total installed capacity of 148 TPD capacity CBG plants can collectively abate 148,555 T CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually<sup>1</sup>.
  - » In other words, 148 TPD of CBG can replace 148 TPD of CNG which will correspond to daily carbon emission savings of close to 407 T of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- › **Supply Chain Considerations:** Efficient logistics and storage solutions are essential for sustainable biomass utilisation.



<sup>1</sup> Assuming combustion of 1 Kg of Methane produces 2.75 Kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emission, Source: G, Sutheo, et.al., 2024, Comparison of Carbon-Dioxide Emissions of Diesel and LNG Heavy-Duty Trucks in Test Track Environment, Clean Technol, Vol.6, pp. 1465-1479.

# Recommendations

## 1. Hybrid Feedstock Utilisation

- » Encourage blending of sugarcane leaves, press-mud mustard straw, Napier grass, and cattle dung to ensure year-round CBG production.
- » Diversified feedstocks stabilise biogas output and reduce supply fluctuations.

## 2. Biomass Banks and Farmer Incentives

- » Establish biomass banks managed by Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to streamline biomass collection and distribution.
- » Introduce transparent pricing and payment mechanisms to encourage farmer participation.

## 3. Strategic Siting of CBG Plants

- » Identify barren lands near sugar mills (within 3-5 km radius) for setting up of CBG plants.
- » Locate plants close to cowsheds, poultry farms, and fuel stations to optimise feedstock procurement and CBG distribution.

## 4. AgriPV for Fallow Land

- » Install Agrivoltaics (AgriPV) on fallow land to create a favourable microclimate, enabling land reclamation for cultivation.
- » AgriPV helps conserve soil moisture, reduce evaporation, and provide shade, enhancing agricultural productivity.

## 5. AgriPV in Horticulture Areas

- » Deploy AgriPV systems in horticultural zones to improve crop yield and increase biomass availability.
- » Certain crops like leafy greens benefit from AgriPV, leading to higher biomass production for CBG generation.

## 6. Promotion of Bio-Slurry Utilisation

- » Encourage farmers to use bio-slurry from CBG plants as organic fertiliser to improve soil health and crop productivity.
- » Develop training programs to educate farmers on the benefits and application techniques of bio-slurry.

## 7. Advanced Biomass Storage Solutions

- » Implement in-house and third-party storage facilities to manage seasonal fluctuations in biomass availability.
- » Utilise separate storage solutions for short-lived residues like press mud and long-lasting residues like paddy straw.



# Introduction

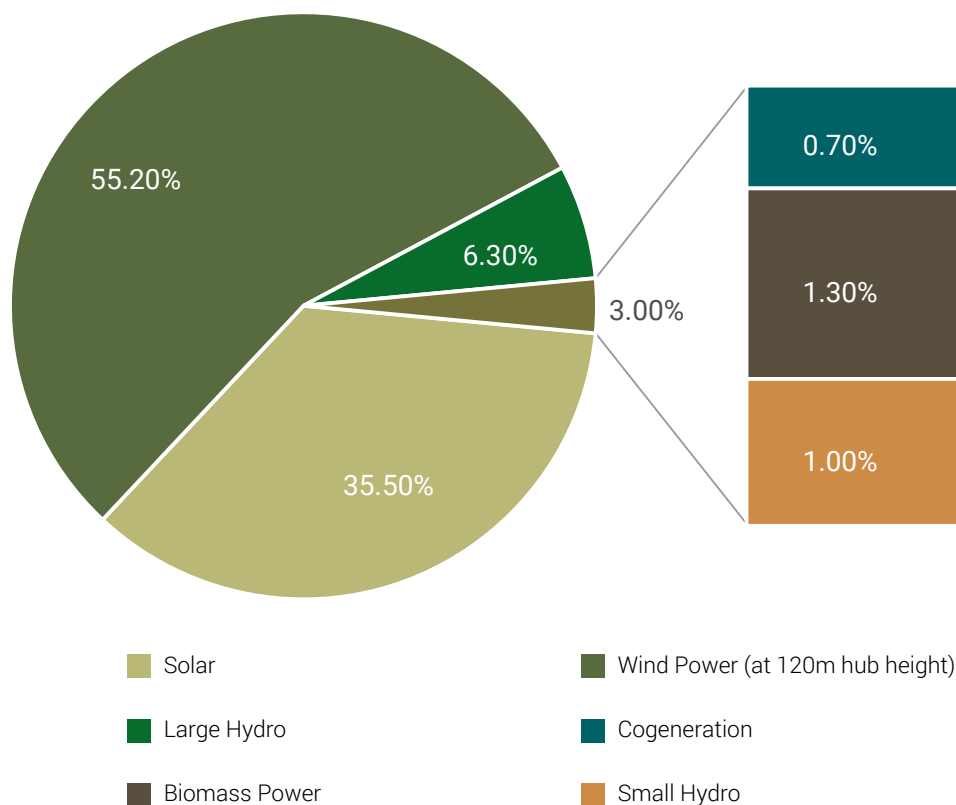
India is expected to experience the largest increase in energy demand, tripling from current levels by 2050.<sup>2</sup> With rising global energy demand, limited local fossil fuel reserves, and environmental concerns, renewable sources like solar, wind and biomass<sup>3</sup> are gaining focus. Biomass energy not only meets the rising energy demand but also effectively manages organic waste - crop residues, animal waste, and municipal solid waste - reducing environmental problems if left unaddressed. Currently, India's bioenergy accounts for 13 percent of the total final energy consumption, with a projected growth rate of 45 percent between 2023 and 2030.<sup>4</sup> India's abundant biomass availability (*See Figure 1* which describes the potential of biomass power in India), positions it well to meet this demand.

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2 The Hindu Bureau, India's energy demand to triple by 2050, 05 October, 2024, <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Indias-energy-demand-to-triple-by-2050/article68719527.ece>

3 Singh, A., Olsen, S.I., 2011. A critical review of biochemical conversion, sustainability and life cycle assessment of algal biofuels. Appl. Energy 88, 3548-3555.

4 IEA 2025, Unlocking India's bioenergy potential, <https://www.iea.org/commentaries/unlocking-indias-bioenergy-potential>



**Figure 1: Source-wise renewable power potential in India, 2023<sup>5,6</sup>**

India is the second largest agro-based economy and has 58 percent of its total land area available for agricultural purposes,<sup>7</sup> with net cultivated area of around 219.16 million hectares and has about 141.6 percent cropping intensity.<sup>8,9</sup> Therefore, it generates a huge amount of agricultural residues which can contribute to biofuel and bioenergy production.<sup>10</sup> At the national level, India generates approximately 686 Million Tonnes (MT) of gross crop residues<sup>11</sup> including approximately 234.5 MT of surplus residues<sup>12</sup> annually.

In India, Uttar Pradesh is a leading agrarian<sup>13</sup> state (See **Figure 2**) and has the highest biomass power potential (See **Figure 3**). It is building a robust renewable biofuel economy in line with its Bio-energy Policy 2022. The main thrust of the policy is to promote the production of Biofuels such as Bio-CNG<sup>14</sup> and Bio-coal through waste-based enterprises.

<sup>5</sup> Energy Statistics 2024, Ministry of Statistics, Programme and Implementation (MoSPI)

<sup>6</sup> This share is against total estimated renewable power potential of India as on 2023, i.e., 21,09,654 MW.

<sup>7</sup> Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Land Use Statistics At A Glance: 2022-23, September 2024

<sup>8</sup> Cropping Intensity is the ratio of the Net Area Sown to the Total Cropped Area. (Source: Explanatory Notes, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare)

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, PIB Press Release dated 30 July 2024, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=2039218>

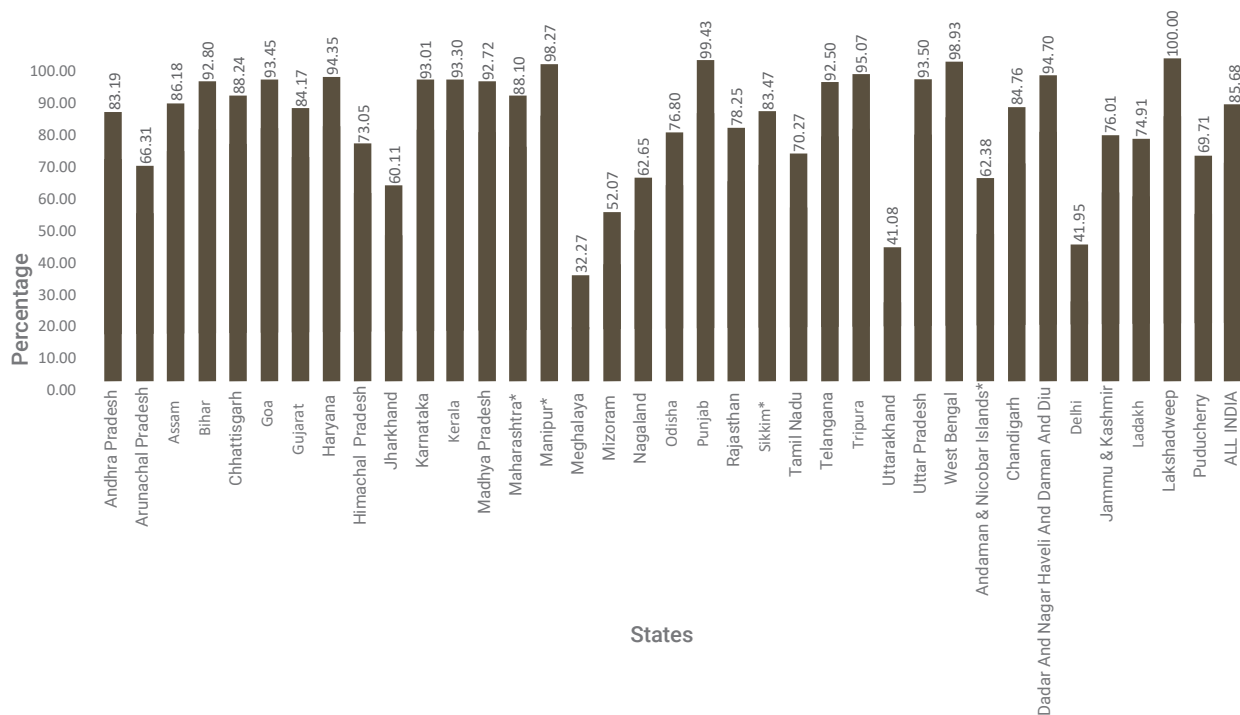
<sup>10</sup> D, Singh. U, Mina., 2022 On and Off Farm Crop Residue Management: A brief review on Options, Benefits, Drawbacks, Limitations and Policy Interventions, Journal of Cereal Research Vol. 14(2): 108-128

<sup>11</sup> Gross crop residue can be defined as the sum total of crop residues produced for a particular crop.

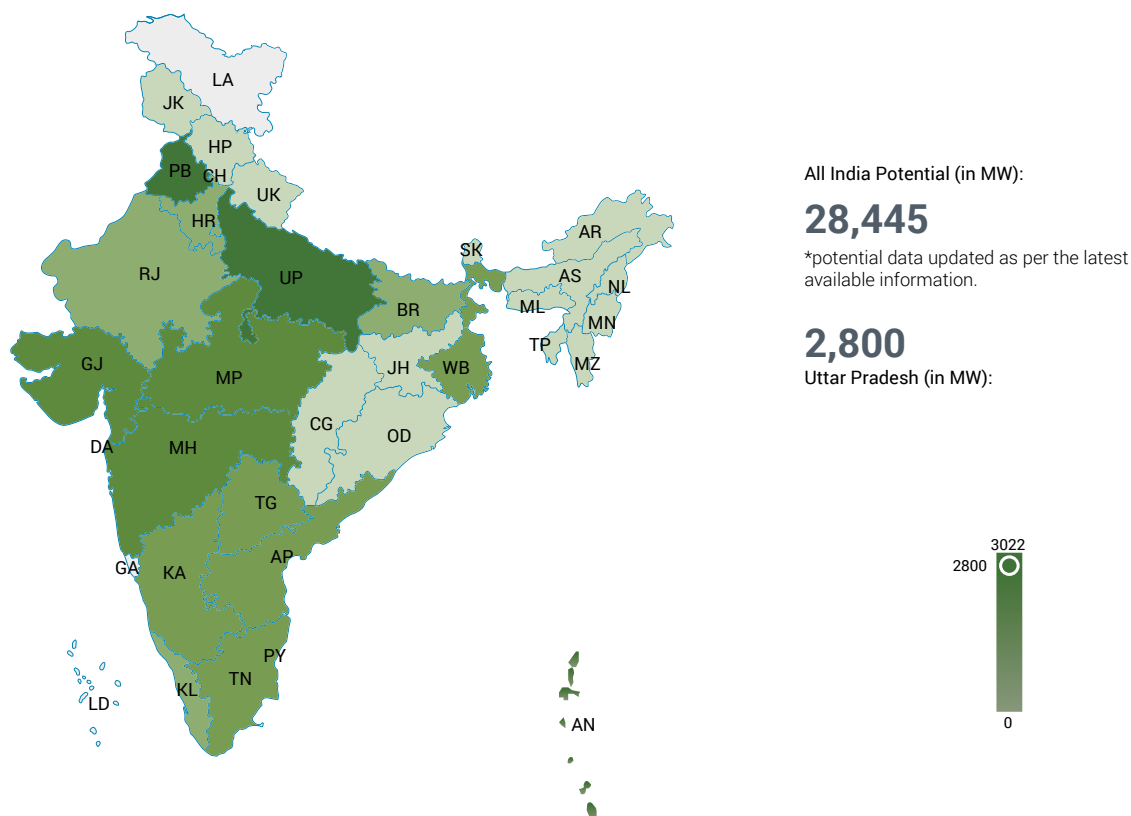
<sup>12</sup> Surplus crop residue of a particular crop represents the amount of crop residues that are available for energy production after all other competing uses such as cooking fuel, cattle feed, roof thatching, composting, animal bedding and others.

<sup>13</sup> As per National Policy on Crop Residue Management 2017, Uttar Pradesh generates 115.68 MT of crop residues every year making it the highest in India

<sup>14</sup> Bio-CNG (Compressed Natural Gas), chemically same as CBG (Compressed Biogas) has methane content of more than 90% and can be used a green automotive fuel and in city gas distribution networks replacing CNG, etc. (Source: IREDA)



**Figure 2: State-wise percent of cultivated land to the total agricultural/cultivable land during 2022-2315**



**Figure 3: Biomass power potential in India<sup>16</sup>**

<sup>15</sup> Land Use Statistics At a Glance: 2022-23, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

<sup>16</sup> India Climate and Energy Dashboard (ICED) 2025

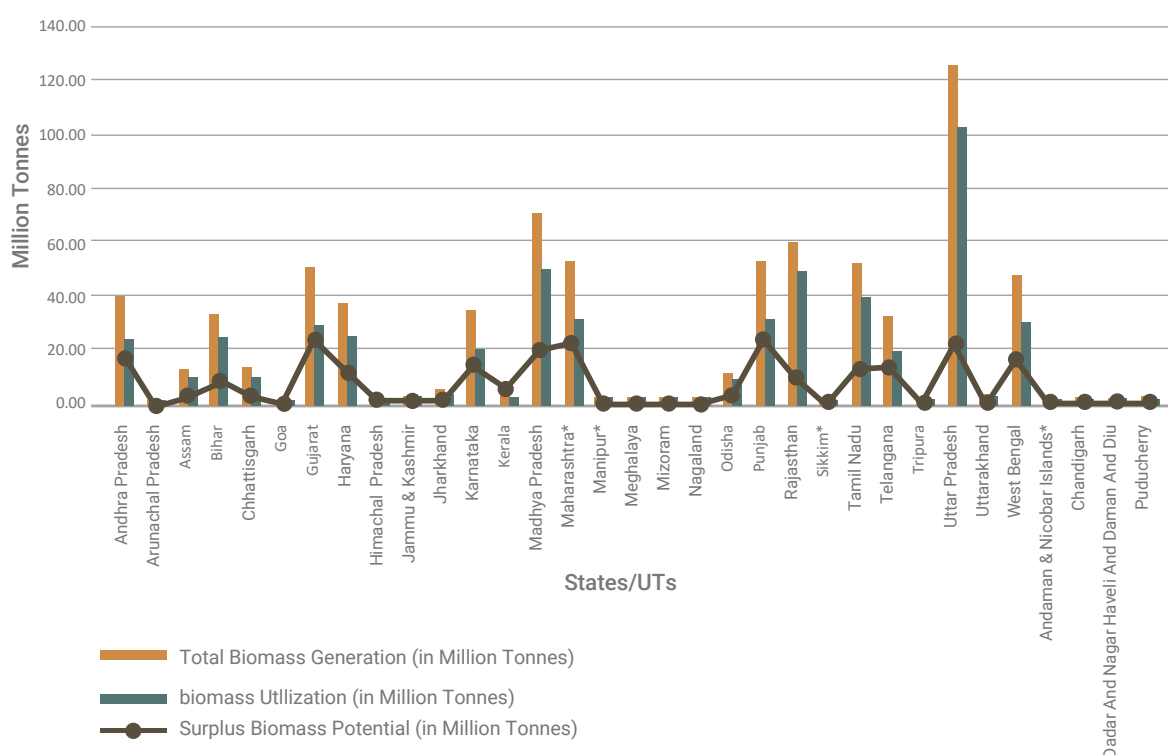
Uttar Pradesh, among all other States, also has one of the highest total biomass and surplus biomass residue in India i.e., 124 MT and 21 MT,<sup>17</sup> respectively (See Figure 4). It has abundant biomass residue available which include bagasse, press mud, paddy straw, cattle dung, etc. which are potential feedstocks for Compressed Biogas (CBG) production.

As per the 2022 Agricultural Statistics, State-wise potential availability of agriculture-based biomass (MT) is summarised in the Table 2:<sup>18</sup>

**Table 2: Potential availability of biomass in Uttar Pradesh**

| State         | Rice Husk | Wheat Straw | Maize Cobs | Pearl Millet Straw | Sugarcane Bagasse | Groundnut Shell | Cotton Stalks |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Uttar Pradesh | 7.64      | 45.15       | N.A.       | 3.24               | 58.55             | N.A.            | N.A.          |

Despite the availability, challenges such as limited offtake, seasonal biomass supply, and inadequate logistics continue to hinder the consistent production of CBG. To ensure a steady and reliable feedstock supply for a commercial CBG plant, it is crucial to evaluate the available biomass, considering both the type of feedstock and its respective quantity. If such assessments can be conducted at a local level (say, sub-District), it can enable CBG stakeholders to plan and execute projects that are commercially viable and sustainable.



**Figure 4: State-wise total biomass production, biomass utilisation, and surplus biomass potential<sup>19</sup>**

<sup>17</sup> SSS-NIBE, National Biomass Atlas of India: 2023

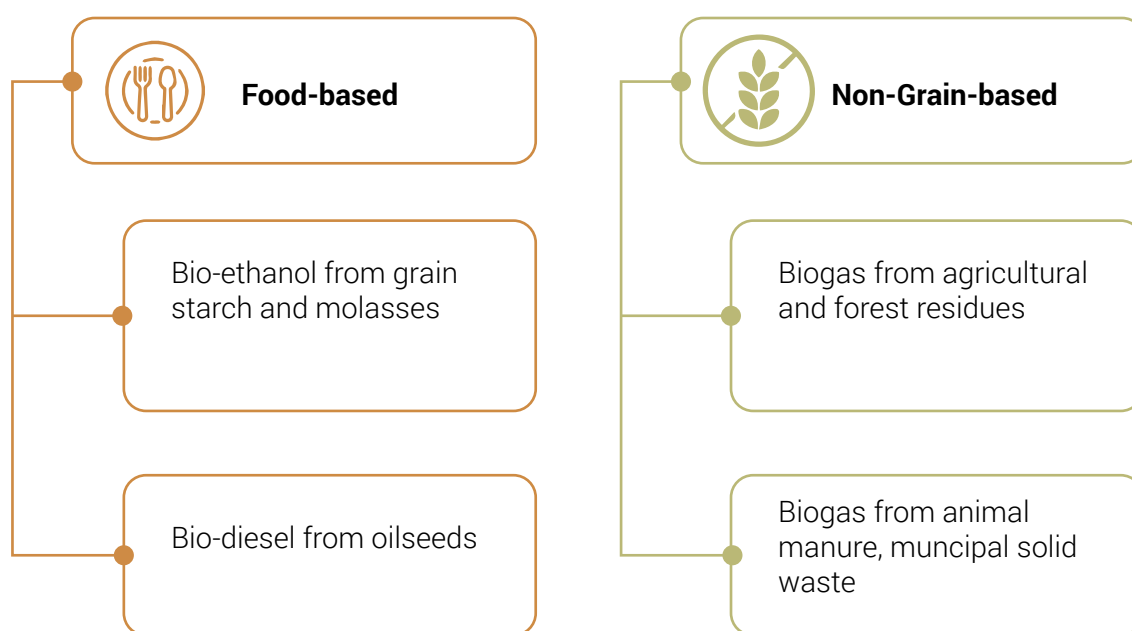
<sup>18</sup> Agricultural Statistics at a Glance 2022, Economics, Statistics and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare

<sup>19</sup> Study Report of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) conducted by Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Centre for Energy Studies (CES), Hyderabad in 2021, Evaluation Study for the Assessment of Biomass Power and Bagasse Power Potential in India, All India – Crop Production, Surplus biomass availability and Biomass Power Potential during 2015-18

Biofuels can be broadly classified as food-based (biodiesel, ethanol from feedstocks like sugar, maize, and vegetable oils, etc.) and Non-Grain-Based (NGB) which are produced from lignocellulose materials such as:

- › Agriculture and forestry residues that include – livestock and crop residue (includes non-edible plant parts that are left in the field after the crop is harvested, thrashed or left after pastures graze including stalk, stubbles, straws, bagasse, seed pods, and roots)<sup>20</sup>
- › Industrial waste

In comparison to food-based, NGB biofuels do not compete with food and also not necessarily require land to cultivate for energy purposes, making it the most promising feedstock for energy generation<sup>21</sup>. Further, the contribution of NGB biofuels in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is 30-35 percent greater compared to food-based biofuels.<sup>22</sup>



**Figure 5: Classification of biofuels**

## 2.1 Scope of the Study

This study aims to measure the net biomass residue production during 2023-24 across all seven tehsils (administrative subdivisions) of Meerut district in Uttar Pradesh. The resulting data will help determine the appropriate capacity and number of CBG plants that can be sustainably established and operated district-wide at sub-district levels. This approach ensures that planned facilities align with the available biomass supply, thereby protecting investor profitability while preventing unsustainable practices in biomass procurement. The assessment includes various agricultural and organic waste feedstocks and their respective residues.

<sup>20</sup> Sharma, I.P, Kanta, C., Gusain, Y.S., 2018. Crop residues utilization: wheat, paddy, cotton, sugarcane, and groundnut. Int. J. Botany Stud. 3(3), 11-15.

<sup>21</sup> Prasad, S., Singh, A., et. al., 2020 Sustainable utilization of crop residues for energy generation: A life cycle assessment (LCA) perspective, Bioresource Technology 303

<sup>22</sup> Global Biofuel Alliance 2025, Role of Non-grain-based Biofuels in India's Energy Transition

**Table 3: Different feedstock and their biomass residues**

| Feedstock             | Scope of the Study                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agricultural Residue  | Stalks, Leaves, Cobs, Tops, Straw, and other organic residues from Cereals, Millets, Perennial Grass (Sugar Crops), Oilseeds, Pulses, Horticulture Crops, Agri-plantations |
| Livestock             | Dung/Litter from Cattle, Goat, Sheep, Swine, Poultry                                                                                                                       |
| Municipal Solid Waste | Dry, Wet, Home Composting, and Sanitary Waste from Municipalities and Municipal Councils                                                                                   |

The study excludes the following feedstocks which include forestry residues, municipal solid wastes, effluents and other wastes from industries such as paper and pulp, food processing, etc. It provides an ‘as-is’ condition and excludes, the potential of biomass residues that can be generated by utilising barren and uncultured land or fallow lands, etc. It takes into consideration of the current biomass residue management practises and further the decrease in the available feedstock due to its usage in the existing or under way bioenergy projects at each tehsil.

The study quantifies the net residue across two major cropping seasons (kharif and rabi) across all the tehsils. The crops were selected based on their acreage and production across the district. The selected crops for the spatio-temporal mapping include mustard, potato, jowar, sugarcane, vegetables, wheat, bajra, maize, pulses, paddy and other crops (e.g., barley).

## 2.2 Importance of Biomass Quantification

Agro-residues are geographically distributed with variation in spatio-temporal availability. Agricultural statistics are fundamental datasets for assessing the general conditions of agricultural production and rural economy in India and are proven to be reliable and useful by various applications. For viable utilisation of biomass residue for energy generation, prior and precise database of residue distribution, seasonal fluctuation (peak and lean period of availability) is a pre-requisite.<sup>23</sup> Logistics such as residue harvest, collection, storage, transportation are spatially interlinked and need meticulous planning. In this study, adequacy, precision, reliability of data collected through traditional methods (secondary data collection or survey) is integrated with high-resolution spatial maps of crop production (one of the major agro residues) at the sub-district level that can inform the potential plant capacity, annual feedstock availability for CBG production (both, in terms of quantity and location from where it can be procured).

Government agencies and industry developers/investors can utilise these biomass quantification findings to evaluate crop residue availability across the district. By providing detailed information on both quantity and type of crop residues (such as paddy straw and wheat husk) available in each area, the research supports the design and implementation of CBG plants tailored to local feedstock conditions.

## 2.3 Overview of Compressed Biogas (CBG) Industry

India has a diverse range of feedstocks available for biogas generation. The optimal feedstock for biogas production is determined by its methanogenic potential—the maximum methane yield per tonne

<sup>23</sup> A, Chakraborty, et.al., 2019 Spatial Disaggregation of the Bioenergy Potential from Crop Residues Using Geospatial Technique, The International Archives of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences, Vol. XLII-3/W6



of raw material. This potential is primarily influenced by two factors: the organic matter content and its composition. Higher organic matter concentrations directly correlate to greater biogas production volumes. Additionally, the specific composition of this organic matter significantly affects yield, with lipids exhibiting methanogenic capabilities compared to proteins or carbohydrates. The most common feedstocks utilised in existing CBG plants include animal waste, agricultural residue, organic fraction of municipal solid waste (MSW), and sewage sludge.

Biogas production constitutes an intricate biological process unfolding in four distinct phases. The process begins with hydrolysis (Phase 1), where fermentative bacteria break down complex biopolymers such as proteins, polysaccharides, and fats/oils into simpler monomers and oligomers like sugars, amino acids, and peptides. In the acidogenesis phase (Phase 2), these simplified compounds are further transformed by fermentative bacteria into short-chain volatile organic acids, including propionate and butyrate. During acetogenesis (Phase 3), these intermediate products are transformed by acetogenic bacteria into acetate, hydrogen ( $H_2$ ), and carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ). Finally, in the methanogenesis phase (Phase 4), methanogenic microorganisms follow two pathways: acetolactic methanogens convert acetate into methane ( $CH_4$ ) and  $CO_2$ , while  $CO_2$ -reducing methanogens utilise hydrogen to reduce carbon dioxide to methane. Figure 6 shows this sequential breakdown of organic matter under anaerobic conditions, ultimately producing biogas.



**Figure 6: Bio-chemical process flow for biogas production**

Biogas is mostly composed of methane (40-60%) and carbon dioxide (30-35%), with small amounts of impurities such as Hydrogen Sulphide ( $H_2S$ ), ammonia and moisture. This biogas can be used directly as cooking fuel or undergo additional processing. An important secondary benefit of biogas production is the digestate byproduct, which contains high concentrations of carbon and nitrogen compounds. Once dewatered, this digestate can be marketed as premium fertiliser.<sup>24</sup> This dual-product approach creates two distinct revenue streams from a single CBG plant operation.

Additional processing of biogas is carried out by removing Carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ),  $H_2S$ , and moisture content, resulting in a fuel of higher calorific value. If the methane content of the upgraded product is above 90 percent, it can be used directly as the transportation fuel to replace Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) or injected into gas grids as CBG, which should meet IS 16087:2016 specifications of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Table 3 and 4 summarise the characteristics of raw biogas and Bio-CNG/CBG.

<sup>24</sup> R, Jain. K, Jawed., Biogas digestate: This high-value byproduct deserves more attention, Down To Earth 12 February 2023, <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/renewable-energy/biogas-digestate-this-high-value-byproduct-deserves-more-attention-87649>

**Table 4: Chemical composition of raw biogas vs CBG**

| Composition       | Raw Biogas | Bio-CNG/CBG |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| Methane           | 55-65%     | >90%        |
| Carbon dioxide    | 30-40%     | <4%         |
| Hydrogen sulphide | 0.1-4%     | <16 ppm     |
| Nitrogen          | 3%         | <0.5%       |
| Oxygen            | 0.1-2%     | <0.5%       |
| Moisture          | 1-2%       | 0%          |
| Calorific Value   | 19.5 MJ/kg | 47-52 MJ/kg |

**Table 5: Composition of CBG as per IS 16087:2016**

| Characteristic                                      | Requirement         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Methane (min)                                       | 90%                 |
| Carbon dioxide (max)                                | 4%                  |
| Oxygen (max)                                        | 0.5%                |
| Total sulphur<br>(including H <sub>2</sub> S) (max) | 20mg/m <sup>3</sup> |
| Moisture (max)                                      | 5mg/m <sup>3</sup>  |

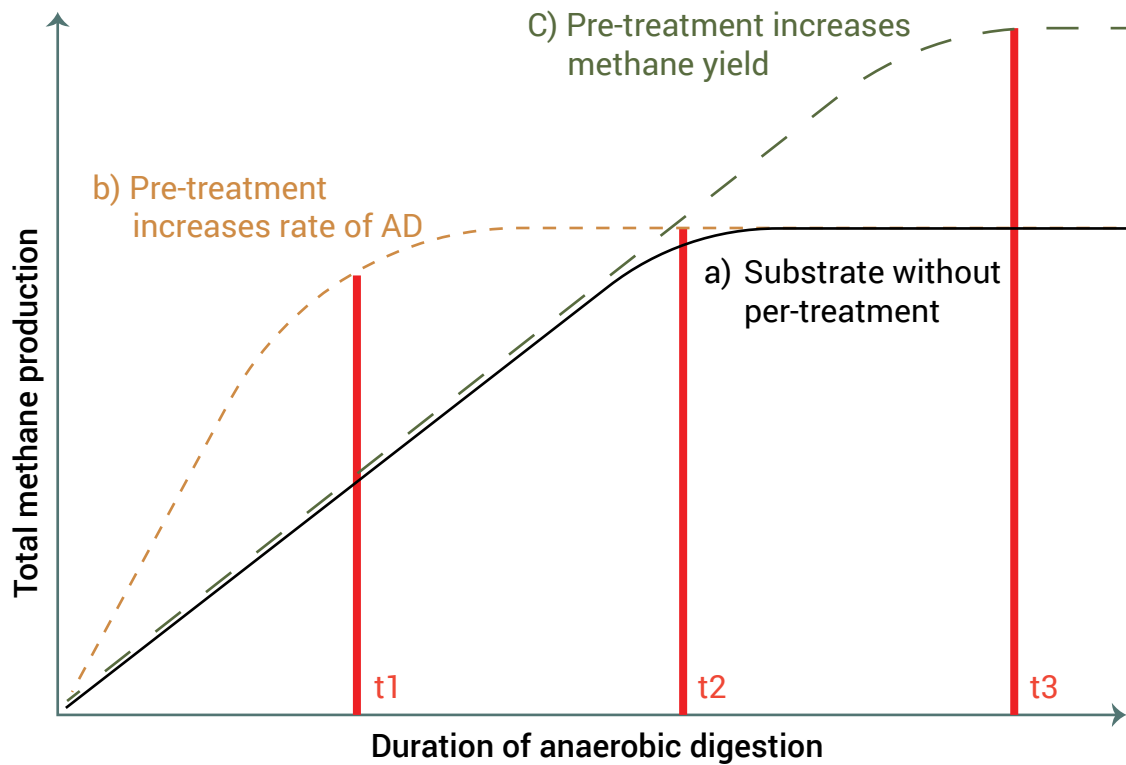
The wide variability in biogas substrates and raw materials often necessitates pretreatment processes, which can substantially enhance biogas yields. **Figure 7** illustrates significant advantages that can be achieved through appropriate feedstock pretreatment. A single feedstock or a combination of feedstocks is fed into shredders (mechanical pretreatment) that make the substrate smaller or break open their cellular structure, increasing the specific surface area of the biomass (**See Figure 8**).<sup>25</sup> This gives greater possibility for enzymatic attack and increase biogas yields. The substrate is then dewatered to remove excess moisture from biomass material thereby improving their thermal efficiency and storage stability.<sup>26</sup> After the substrate is homogenised and dewatered, it is preheated in a preparation tank before it is actually fed into a digester.<sup>27</sup>

25 F.R., Lucy, et. al., Pretreatment of feedstock for enhanced biogas production, IEA Bioenergy 2014

26 N, John, P.S., Fathima, et.al., 2023, Physical Conversion of Biomass: Dewatering, Drying, Size Reduction, Densification, and Separation, Handbook on Biomass, Springer

27 K.K., Ashin, et.al., 2022, Numerical Analysis of bio-digester substrate heating methods, Vol. 66, pp. 1563-1570





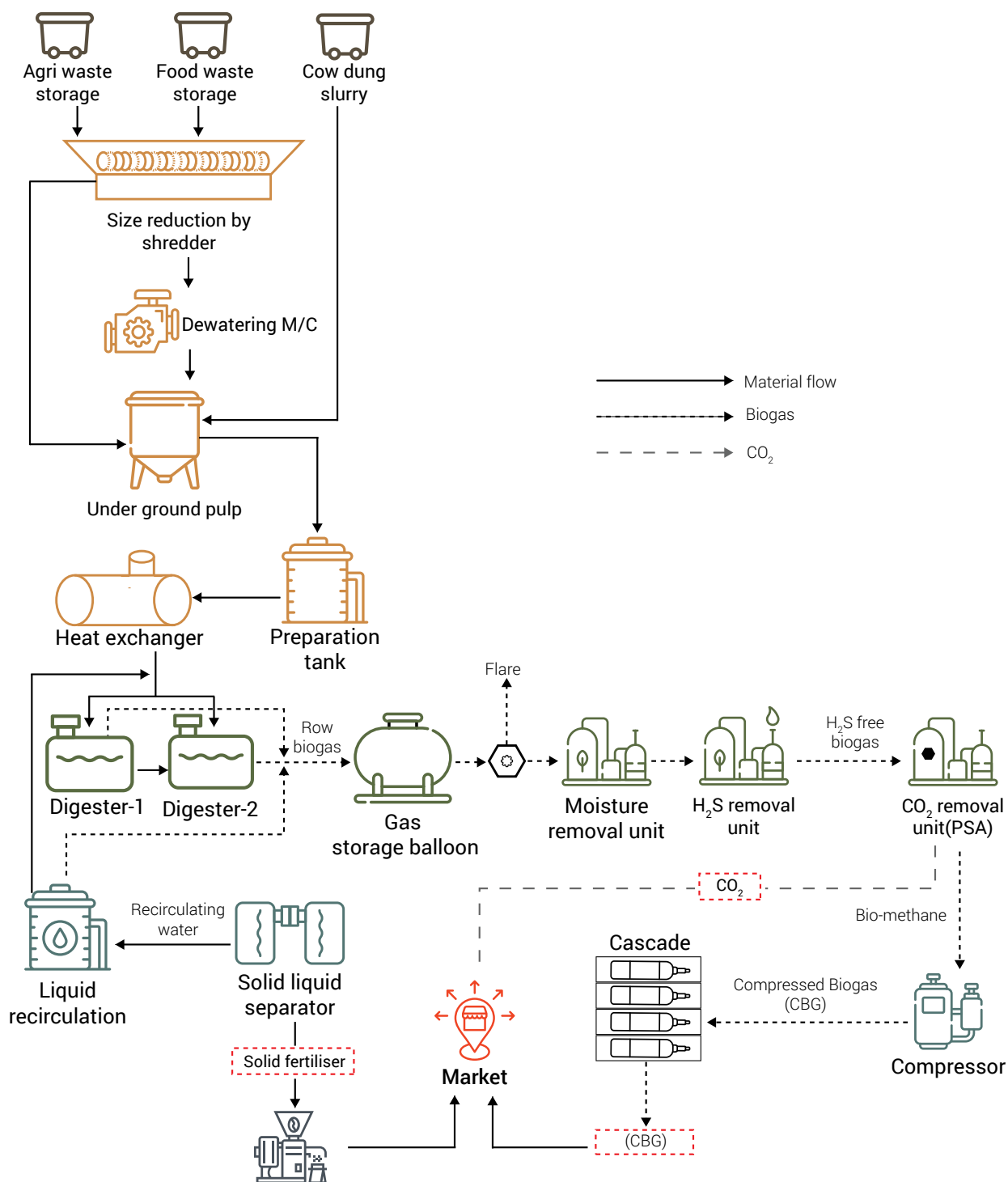
**Figure 7: Pretreatment method can increase the rate of anaerobic digestion or can increase the methane yield<sup>28</sup>**

After the raw biogas exits digester, the moisture is removed using a dehumidifier or dryer as water vapour can not only decrease the heat value of the gas but also form condensates and accumulates in the downstream unit thereby forming plugs or hydraulic seals obstructing the transport of biogas.<sup>29</sup> This is followed by removal of hydrogen sulphide which not only contaminates the environment, but also minimises the useful life of downstream equipment by corrosion. Carbon dioxide is removed from the biogas stream using a Pressure Swing Adsorption technique which separates the two gases through selective adsorption. Purified gas is then compressed in a high-pressure compressor before getting deposited in a high-pressure compartment or cylindrical vessel.



<sup>28</sup> IEA Bioenergy 2014

<sup>29</sup> J, Reina., 2018, Study of effect of the water vapor removal on the biogas stream, 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Renewable Energy Gas Technology



**Figure 8: Process flow diagram for a compressed biogas plant<sup>30</sup>**

India's CBG potential is estimated at approximately 87 bcm/yr<sup>31</sup>, while the installed capacity currently represents less than 1 percent of this potential. As of September 2024, approximately 90 CBG plants were operational with an additional 508 plants under various stages of development. By 2030, CBG production could reach 0.8 bcm/yr. Realising this potential, Government of India through various

<sup>30</sup> B, Gami. B, Patel. P, Patel. V, Parmar., 2022 Cost benefit and environmental impact assessment of CBG production from industrial, agricultural, and community organic waste from India, Biomass Conversion and Biorefinery, Vol. 14

<sup>31</sup> Metric 'bcm' refers to billion cubic meters of natural gas

measures have been promoting the production and use of CBG, which include:

- › GOBARdhan (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) which promotes converting cattle dung, agricultural residue and other organic waste into CBG and organic manure. The initiative has resulted in the installation of 110 community biogas plants and 21 CBG plants in Uttar Pradesh alone.<sup>32</sup>
- › Under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative, Government has introduced the phase-wise mandatory blending of CBG in transport and PNG (Petroleum Natural Gas) in City Gas Distribution network.<sup>33</sup>
- › Under the National Bioenergy Programme, government has been promoting energy generation from urban/industrial/agricultural residues.
- › Market Development Assistance under GOBARdhan and amendments in the Fertiliser (Control) Order of 1985<sup>34</sup>, providing financial assistance to CBG developers, primarily for promotion of organic fertilisers i.e., manure produced at CBG plants. This further enables farmers to get access to organic fertilisers namely, Fermented Organic Manure (FOM), Liquid FOM, Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM) at reasonable prices, addressing the organic carbon and micronutrients deficiency in Indian soil.
- › Facilitating CBG offtake by financially supporting cost-effective pipeline transportation of CBG from production facilities to consumption centres (Scheme for Development of Pipeline Infrastructure<sup>35</sup>) and price support for CBG gas under CBG-CGD Synchronisation scheme.<sup>36</sup>

Among all the states, Uttar Pradesh accounts for 24 percent of the total CBG generation potential in India<sup>37</sup> due to abundant organic feedstock availability.

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32 Status of GOBARdhan Scheme for Waste-to-Wealth Plants, Official Reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 718, 10.02.2025, Ministry of Jal Shakti

33 Under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act 2006, CGD in a specified geographical area includes the following distinct segments:

Compressed Natural Gas predominantly used as auto-fuel

Piped Natural Gas used in domestic, commercial, and industrial segments

34 Fertilizer (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) (Third) Amendment Order, 2025 introduced a new category of fertilizer termed “organic carbon enhancers from CBG plants”

35 Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) (2024, 2025) Scheme Guideline for Development of Pipeline Infrastructure (DPI) for injection of Compressed Biogas (CBG) in City Gas Distribution (CGD) network, 2024 and 2025 Revisions

36 GAIL, MoPNG, 2025, Change in methodology and revision in price of Biogas/CBG under CBG-CGD Synchronization scheme

37 Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) 2024, Compressed Biogas Landscape in Uttar Pradesh



# District Profile

## 3.1 Geographic Overview

**M**eerut is located between 28° 54' N 77° 00' E and 29° 15' N and 78° 00' E. The district is bounded on the north by Muzaffarnagar district, on the south by Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr & Gautambudh Nagar districts and on the East by Bijnor and Amroha districts and on the west by Baghpat districts. The whole district is a vast level plain. Ganga and Hindon rivers draw the eastern and western boundaries of the district.<sup>38</sup> The ground is not rocky and there are no mountains. The soil is composed of alluvial sediments transported by river action from the Himalayan region.

Meerut is one of the industrial towns of importance as well as an agricultural area with a few pockets that are not suitable for the purpose of crop cultivation. Some of the prominent industries in the city are textiles, tyres, sugar, transformer, chemicals, distillery, paper, engineering, sports good and publishing.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Brief Industrial Profile of District Meerut, MSME Development Institute, Ministry of MSME

<sup>39</sup> Meerut District Economy, <https://meerut.nic.in/economy/>





**Figure 9: District and tehsil map of Meerut<sup>40</sup>**

## 3.2 Administrative Units (Tehsils/Blocks)

For administrative convenience, the district<sup>41</sup> is divided into three tehsils which are: Meerut, Mawana, and Sardhana. There are 13 blocks in the district, one Nagar Nigam, two Nagar Palikas and 12 Nagar Panchayats.

**Table 6: Division/Block-wise inhabited village count in Meerut district as per UP bhulekh geo-dashboard<sup>38</sup>**

| Block/Division | Inhabited Village |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Sitapur        | 305               |
| Biswan         | 221               |
| Laharpur       | 136               |

<sup>40</sup> District Map of Meerut, Maps of India, <https://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/uttarpradesh/tehsil/meerut.html>

<sup>41</sup> Meerut District Profile, <https://meerut.nic.in/tehsil-level/>

### 3.3 Climatic Conditions

The climate of the district from November to March months is very pleasant due to western-northern airflow. Summer starts early and the average temperature of the district varies from 2°C in winter to 46°C in summer. The wet season normally starts in the end of June. The average rainfall is 586 mm and the winter months are usually dry.<sup>38</sup>

**Table 7: District agricultural and climate profile of Meerut<sup>42</sup>**

| District Agricultural and Climate Profile                                    |                              |                                                          |                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Agro-Climatic Zone <sup>43</sup> (State Agricultural Profile <sup>44</sup> ) |                              | Northern Plain and Western Plain Zone                    |                                   |
| Rainfall <sup>45</sup>                                                       |                              |                                                          |                                   |
| Season                                                                       | Average Annual Rainfall (mm) | Normal Rainy Days (no.)                                  | Normal Cessation                  |
| Southwest Monsoon (June-September)                                           | 598                          | 46                                                       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of September |
| Post-monsoon (October-December)                                              | 31                           | 12                                                       | -                                 |
| Winter (January-March)                                                       | 24                           | 07                                                       | -                                 |
| Annual                                                                       | 719                          | 79                                                       | -                                 |
| Temperature (in degree Celsius) <sup>46</sup>                                |                              | 2°C <b>Minimum</b>                                       | 46°C <b>Maximum</b>               |
| Soil                                                                         |                              | Deep and Sandy loam soil with pockets of silty loam soil |                                   |
| Major Climate Contingency and Frequency                                      |                              | Regular                                                  | Occasional      None              |
| Drought                                                                      |                              |                                                          | ✓                                 |
| Cyclone                                                                      |                              |                                                          | ✓                                 |
| Hailstorm                                                                    |                              |                                                          | ✓                                 |
| Heat wave                                                                    |                              |                                                          | ✓                                 |
| Cold wave                                                                    |                              | ✓                                                        |                                   |
| Frost                                                                        |                              |                                                          | ✓                                 |

A report<sup>47</sup> which measured district-level climate vulnerabilities in India highlighted that Meerut district in Uttar Pradesh fall is placed under relatively moderately vulnerable category and the major drivers of vulnerability include high percent of marginal and small operational holders, low percent area covered under centrally funded crop insurance, lack of forest area per 1000 rural population, etc.

<sup>42</sup> Agriculture Contingency Plan for Meerut

<sup>43</sup> India has been classified into 15 Agro-climatic zones based on land use, soil type, irrigation, amount of rainfall received, etc. Each zone is further classified into regions and sub-regions at the district level for developing long-term land use strategies. Sub-regions are characterized by homogenous soil, climate, physiography and moisture.

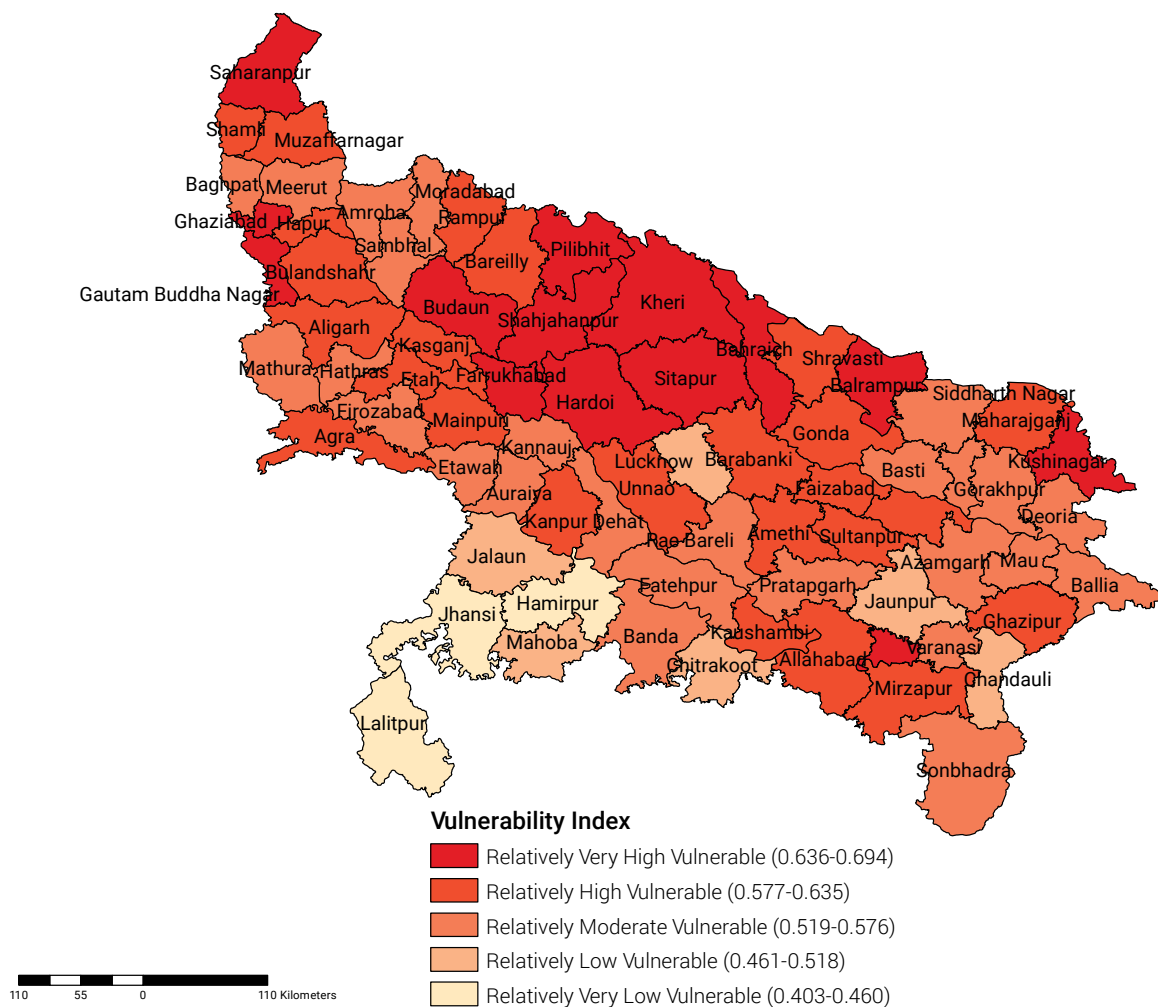
<sup>44</sup> State Agricultural Profile: Uttar Pradesh 2024, Directorate of Sugarcane Development

<sup>45</sup> Agriculture Contingency Plan for District: Meerut, 2019, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

<sup>46</sup> Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Meerut, Agriculture Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh

<sup>47</sup> Department of Science and Technology, 2019-20, Submitted by IIT Mandi, IIT Guwahati and IISc Bengaluru



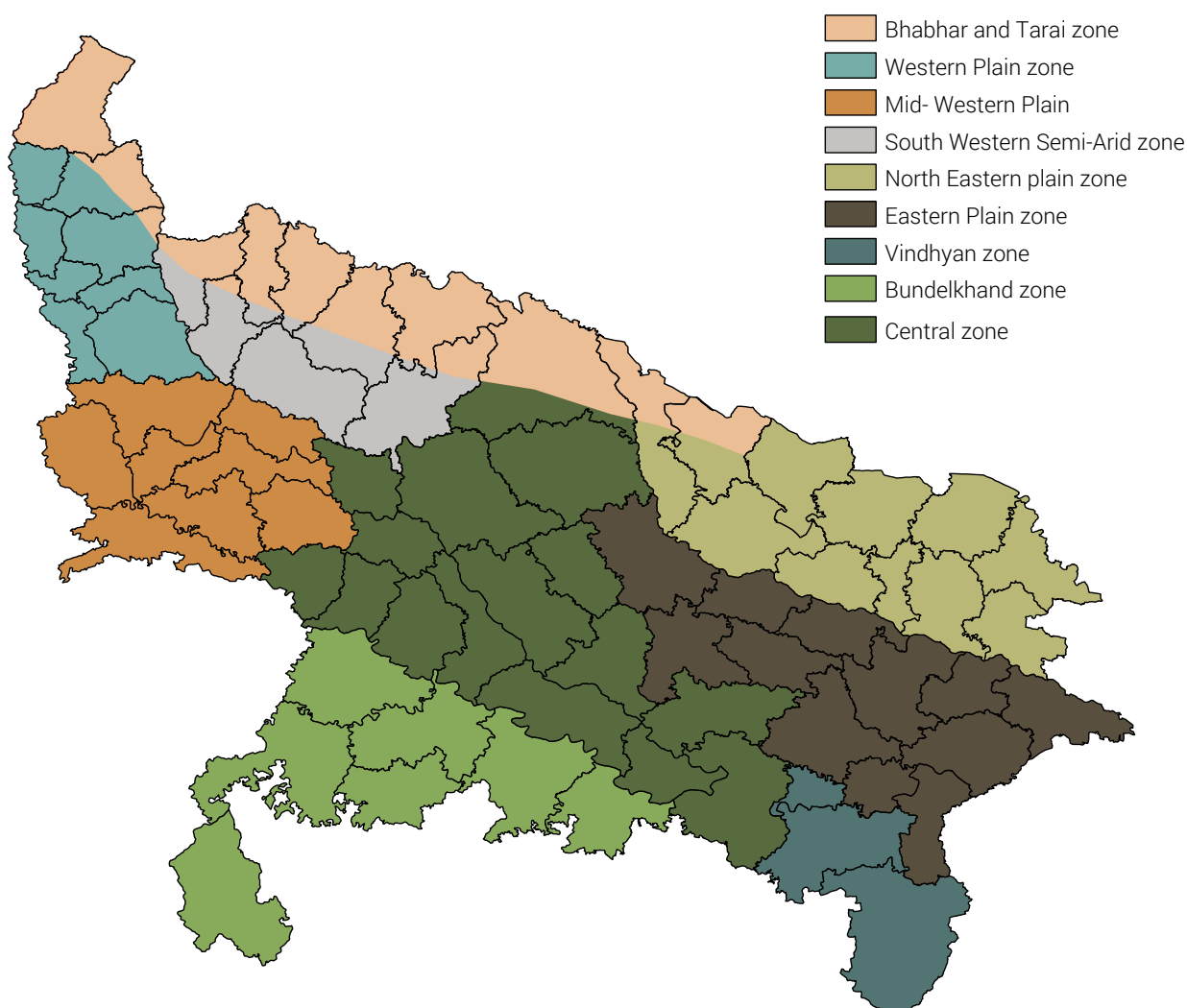


**Figure 10: District-wise climate vulnerability index**

On the basis of soil, climate, topography, vegetation, and crops, Uttar Pradesh has been divided into nine agro-climatic zones. Meerut is located in the Western Plain Zone (as described in *Figure 11*) and records high productivity of food grains as seen in the Table 8:

**Table 8: Productivity of food grains in different agro-climatic zones of Uttar Pradesh**

| Zones                  | Productivity of Food Grains (Q/ha) | Category |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Tarai & Bhabhar        | 25.07                              | High     |
| Western Plain          | 31.53                              | High     |
| Mid-Western            | 25.17                              | High     |
| South Western Semi-dry | 27.51                              | High     |
| Mid-Plain/Central      | 24.68                              | Medium   |
| Bundelkhand            | 14.58                              | Low      |
| North Eastern          | 23.24                              | Medium   |
| Vindhyan               | 17.62                              | Low      |
| Eastern Plain          | 23.43                              | Medium   |
| Uttar Pradesh          | 23.66                              |          |



**Figure 11: Agro-climatic zones in Uttar Pradesh<sup>48</sup>**

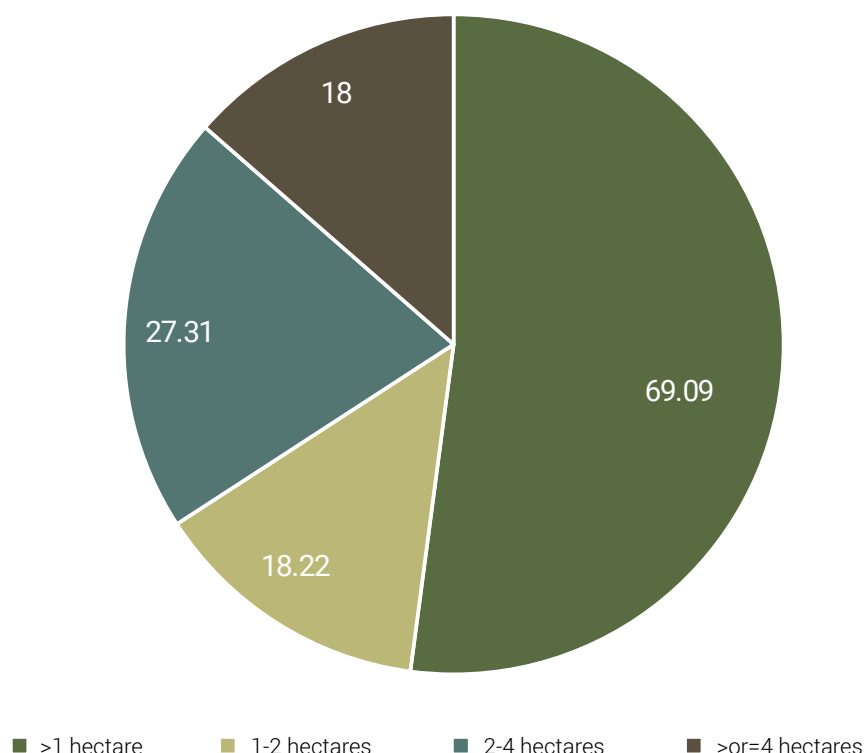
### 3.4 Demographics (Urban/Rural)

Over 32 percent of the total workers in the district were involved either as cultivators or agriculture labourers as per 2011 Census.

In terms of agricultural landholdings, 69.09 percent of the holdings in the district were less than 1 hectare (ha.) while 18.22 percent of the holdings were 1-2 ha, 27.31 percent of the holdings lie between 2-4 ha and 18 percent of the holdings were 4 ha or more during 2015-16. In terms of agricultural income, during 2022-23, the gross value of agricultural produce per ha. of net area sown was INR 3,93,400.

<sup>48</sup> S. Misra, et.al., Exploitation of agro-climatic environment for selection of 1-aminocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid (ACC) deaminase producing salt tolerant indigenous plant growth promoting rhizobacteria, Microbiological Research, Vol. 205, December 2017, pp. 25-34





**Figure 12: Agricultural land holdings in Meerut<sup>49</sup>**

## 3.5 Agricultural Overview

Meerut is majorly an agricultural district. At the district-level, it has a cultivable area of around 1.98 lakh hectares (ha.) with a cropping intensity of 152.67 percent.<sup>49</sup> Gross cropped area is approximately 3.03 lakh ha. with over 0.104 lakh ha. area sown more than once. The net irrigation area is around 0.198 lakh ha. out of which merely 7,114 ha. is rain fed. Other major sources of irrigation include canals and bore wells.

### 3.5.1 Total Agricultural Area

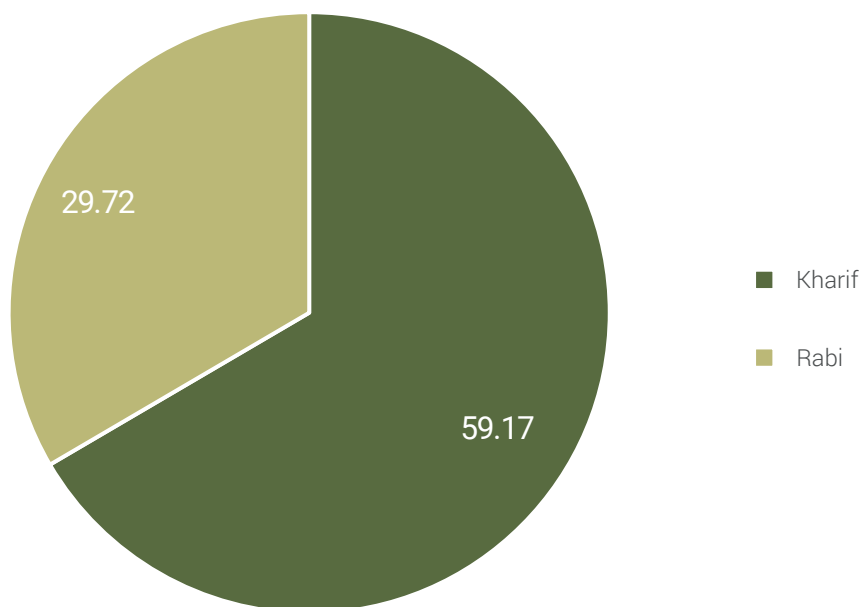
**Table 9: Agricultural land area and cropping intensity in Meerut district**

| Agricultural Land Use    | Area ('000 ha) | Cropping Intensity (%) |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Net sown area            | 198.941        | 152.67                 |
| Area sown more than once | 104.783        |                        |
| Gross cropped area       | 303.724        |                        |

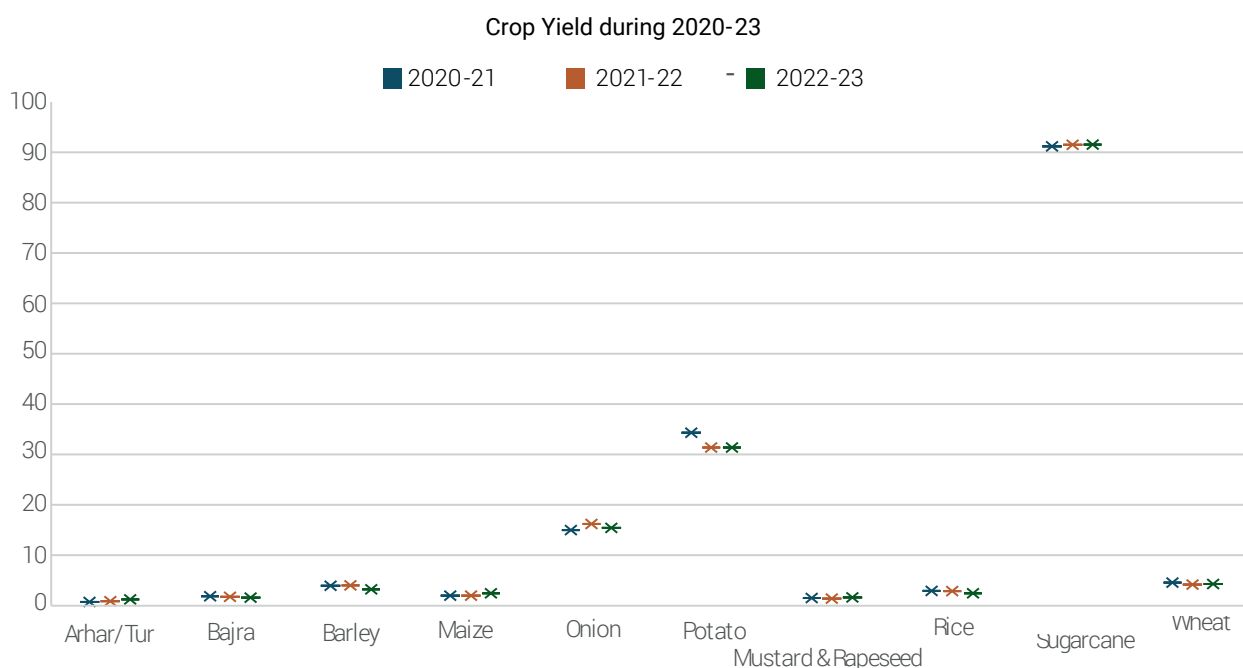
<sup>49</sup> District Wise Development Indicators Uttar Pradesh 2024

### 3.5.2 Major Crops and Cropping Patterns (Kharif, Rabi and Zaid)

Major agricultural crops by production in the district include mustard, sugarcane, wheat and vegetable crops during Rabi season and paddy, potato, sugarcane, bajra, etc. during Kharif season. Zaid are intermediate harvest and is of little significance. Cash crops that are popularly sown in the district include sugarcane, etc. At times, double cropping is practised in the district to obtain more yield. **Figure 13** describes the extent of land use in terms of gross area sown for Kharif and Rabi crops in Meerut district during 2021-22.



**Figure 13: Gross area sown during both the cropping seasons in Meerut**



**Figure 14: Crop yield during 2020-23 for major crops sown in Meerut during Kharif and Rabi**

Rabi crops are sown around mid-November and harvested during spring (April to June) while Kharif crops are sown during the first week of June to mid-July and are harvested during September to October. During 2023-24, the prominent rabi crops were wheat and mustard where wheat alone occupied close to 53 percent of the total cropped area. Other major rabi crops include vegetables, sugarcane, etc.

**Table 10: Tehsil-wise cropped area of Rabi crops (in ha.) during 2023-24<sup>51</sup>**

| Tehsil   | Mustard | Other Crop | Potato  | Sugarcane | Vegetable | Wheat    |
|----------|---------|------------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| MAWANA   | 4068.37 | 1222.31    | 621.54  | 8940.51   | 102.28    | 20301.47 |
| MEERUT   | 5307.81 | 1145.71    | 1936.85 | 11913.63  | 605.54    | 20728.43 |
| SARDHANA | 1664.91 | 753.84     | 551.46  | 7468.15   | 66.68     | 10655.66 |

During 2023-24, the prominent Kharif crops in the district were paddy and sugarcane where together they comprised 94 percent of the total cropped area. Other major kharif crop include bajra that were sown and cultivated during the same period. Among all tehsils, Mawana had the highest share of cropped area for sugarcane and paddy, followed by Meerut and Sardhana.

**Table 11: Tehsil-wise production of Kharif crops (in ha.) during 2023-24**

| Tehsil   | Agri Plantation | Paddy   | Sugarcane |
|----------|-----------------|---------|-----------|
| MAWANA   | 3969.59         | 4790.75 | 54783.37  |
| MEERUT   | 2822.33         | 1961.12 | 51694.66  |
| SARDHANA | 1530.62         | 1528.83 | 41712.32  |

### 3.5.3 Land Use Categories (Irrigated, Rainfed, etc.)

In Meerut, the percent of gross irrigated area to the gross area sown was 99.42 percent during 2022-23<sup>52</sup>.

**Table 12: Sowing pattern for major kharif and rabi crops which are both irrigated and rainfed**

| Sowing window for major field crops | Rice      | Wheat             | Sugarcane        | Pulses            | Potato           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Kharif<br>Rainfed                   | -         | -                 | -                | July-August       | -                |
| Kharif<br>Irrigated                 | June-July | -                 | March-May        | May-June          | -                |
| Rabi – Rainfed                      | -         | -                 | -                | October-November  | -                |
| Rabi – Irrigated                    | -         | November-December | October-November | November-December | October-November |

<sup>51</sup> Analysis by Vasudha Foundation, 2025

<sup>52</sup> District Census Handbook for Meerut, 2011

## 3.6 Forest Resources

### 3.6.1 Total Forest Area

**Table 13: Total forest area (by classification) in Meerut<sup>53</sup>**

| District | Calculated Area (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Very Dense Forest (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Moderate Dense Forest (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Open Forest <sup>54</sup> (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Total (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Scrub <sup>55</sup> (km <sup>2</sup> ) |
|----------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Meerut   | 2500.86                            | 0                                    | 34.59                                    | 56.74                                        | 91.33                    | 0                                      |

### 3.6.2 Types of Forests and Residue Generated

Forestry residue consists of small trees, branches, leaves, bark, tops, and un-merchantable wood left in the forest after cleaning, thinning, or final felling. Woody biomass actually requires thermal gasification at high temperature in a low-oxygen environment to convert them into a mixture of gases, mainly, carbon monoxide, hydrogen and methane (syngas)<sup>56</sup>. To produce a stream of biomethane of high purity, this syngas is cleaned to remove any acidic and corrosive components. Therefore, woody biomass which consist of residues from forest management and wood processing has to follow the gasification route unlike other feedstocks like agriculture residue or Municipal Solid Wastes (MSW). Biomass such as paper, wood, dried leaves, wooden shavings, etc are generally high in lignin and cellulose. These substances are not suitable for the commercial biogas generation.<sup>57</sup>

## 3.7 Livestock Population

Uttar Pradesh is one of the top five milk producing states, contributing approximately 14.93 percent of the total milk production in the country during 2021-22.<sup>58</sup> The continuous rise in the population of animals has also led to significant increase in livestock residues. Uttar Pradesh also has one of the highest number of livestock among all states.

<sup>53</sup> Forest Survey of India, India State of Forest Report 2023 Vol. II p.300

<sup>54</sup> Open Forest denotes all lands with a forest cover of trees with a canopy density of over 40% (Source: Forest Survey of India)

<sup>55</sup> Scrub denotes lands having bushes and/or poor tree with canopy density less than 10%. Such lands are delineated largely within or around continuous forest areas (Source: Forest Survey of India)

<sup>56</sup> IEA 2020, Outlook for biogas and biomethane: Prospects for organic growth

<sup>57</sup> Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) 2022, Environmental Guidelines for Compressed Biogas Plant (CBG)/Bio-CNG Plants

<sup>58</sup> Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics, 2022, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying



### 3.7.1 Cattle, Poultry, and Other Livestock Statistics

**Table 14: Tehsil-wise livestock statistics and cattle in cowsheds<sup>59</sup>**

| Tehsil          | Cattle | Goat/Sheep | Swine | Poultry (Chicken) |
|-----------------|--------|------------|-------|-------------------|
| Mawana          | 92488  | 12668      | 1794  | 1,16,754          |
| Meerut          | 95199  | 21577      | 3984  | 1,28,658          |
| Sardhana        | 78879  | 11774      | 2216  | 1,13,775          |
| Meerut District | 266566 | 46019      | 7994  | 359187            |

| Tehsil          | Total Govansh |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Mawana          | 1397          |
| Meerut          | 3958          |
| Sardhana        | 1839          |
| Meerut District | 7194          |

### 3.7.2 Manure and Waste Generation Potential

The high population of cattle and other livestock has resulted in higher quantities of cattle dung and poultry litter. Common practices for managing dung and litter include composting for manure production, forming cattle dung cakes to be used as fuel, and as feedstock for small biogas plants. Based on the existing literature<sup>60,61,62,63</sup> around dung/litter yield from the respective livestock, the following figures are derived:

**Table 15: Animal categories and their dung/litter generation potential**

| Category | Animal                   | Dung                                     | Assumption   |
|----------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Large    | Cows, Buffalos           | 10-20 kg/day (5-6% of their body weight) | 15 kg/day    |
| Small    | Sheep, Goat              | 2 kg/day (4-5% of their body weight)     | 1.6 kg/day   |
| Small    | Swine (Pigs)             | 4 kg/day (5-7% of their body weight)     | 2.7 kg/day   |
| Poultry  | Broiler, Layer and Other | 0.1 kg/day (3-4% of their body weight)   | 0.045 kg/day |

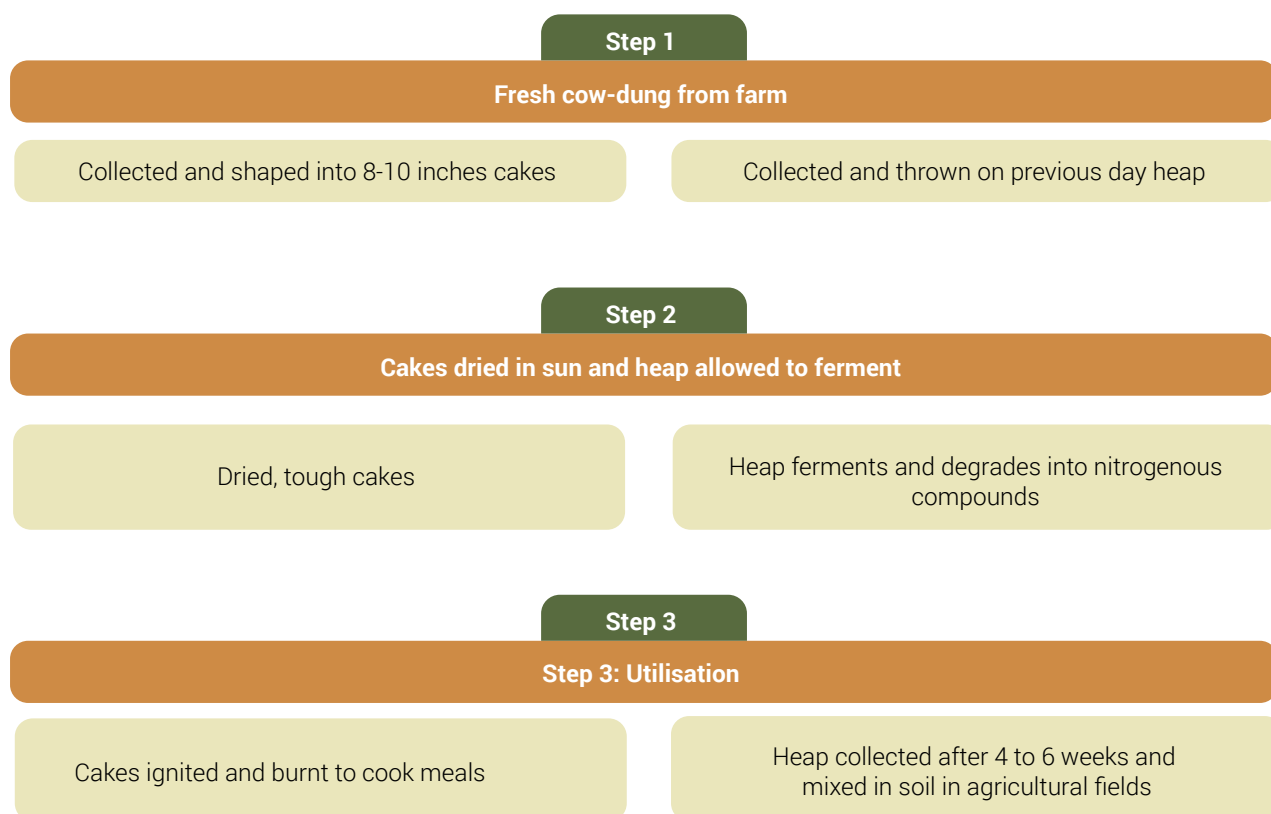
<sup>59</sup> Animal Husbandry Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh

<sup>60</sup> Avcioglu, A.O., Turker. et. al., Status and potential of biogas energy from animal wastes in Turkey, Renew, Sustain., Energy Rev. 2012, Vol. 16, pp. 1557-1561

<sup>61</sup> Kaygusuz, K., Renewable and sustainable energy use in Turkey: A review, Renew, Sustain, Energy Rev, 2002, Vol. 6, pp. 339-366

<sup>62</sup> Afazeli, H. et. al., Potential of biogas production from farm animal waste in Malaysia, Renew, Sustain, Energy Rev. 2016, Vol. 60, pp. 714-723

<sup>63</sup> G, Kaur. et. al., Potential of Livestock Generated Biomass: Untapped Energy Sources in India, MDPI, energies, 20 June 2017



**Figure 15: Traditional use of cow-dung as kitchen fuel and manure<sup>64</sup>**

<sup>64</sup> G. Kaur., et. al., Potential of Livestock Generated Biomass: Untapped Energy Sources in India, *Energies* 2017, 10, 847



## 3.8 Industry and Processing Units

### 3.8.1 Existing Biomass-based Industries

There are two CBG plants in the district and two large biogas plants whose details have been tabulated as under:

**Table 16: Details of existing biomass-based industries in Meerut (both, completed and under-construction)**

| Plant Capacity and Tehsil                         | Feedstock/<br>Raw Material      | By-Products         | Procurement Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5.98 (TPD) in Sardhana Tehsil                     | Sugarcane Pressmud, Cattle Dung | CBG, Bio-fertiliser | Combination feedstock comprising of 80% of Sugarcane Pressmud and 20% of Cattle dung, with over 50% of pressmud to be procured from a Sugar mill within the same tehsil, 10% from Mawana and 40% of feedstock from Khatauli tehsils |
| 7.5 (TPD) plant in Mawana Tehsi                   | Sugarcane Pressmud, Cattle Dung | CBG, Bio-fertiliser | Combination feedstock comprising of 80% of Sugarcane Pressmud and 20% of Cattle dung with 100% of the daily feedstock to be procured from a sugar mill within the same tehsil                                                       |
| 60 cu. m. per day biogas plant in Sardhana Tehsil | Cattle Dung                     | Biogas              | Large biogas plant producing cooking fuel                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 60 cu. m. per day biogas plant in Meerut Tehsil   | Cattle Dung                     | Biogas              | Large biogas plant producing cooking fuel                                                                                                                                                                                           |



# Data Collection

## 4.1 Primary Data Collection

**P**Primary data sets of land cover, usage, and cropping pattern of specified timeframe in each tehsil were studied. Crop mapping was done using high-resolution seasonal time series data and by extracting unique temporal signatures of different crop. Land cover map primarily describes the annual land use pattern in the district and in all the tehsils by differentiating, built-up, agricultural, fallow, barren, scrub, plantation and water bodies. Crop maps provide acreage estimations of seasonal crops.

In addition, field visits were held to understand the biomass residue supply chain, usage and management (for example, visiting the sugar mills to understand the bagasse and press mud, value chain, etc.). Through our survey at sugar mills, we derived the following factors:

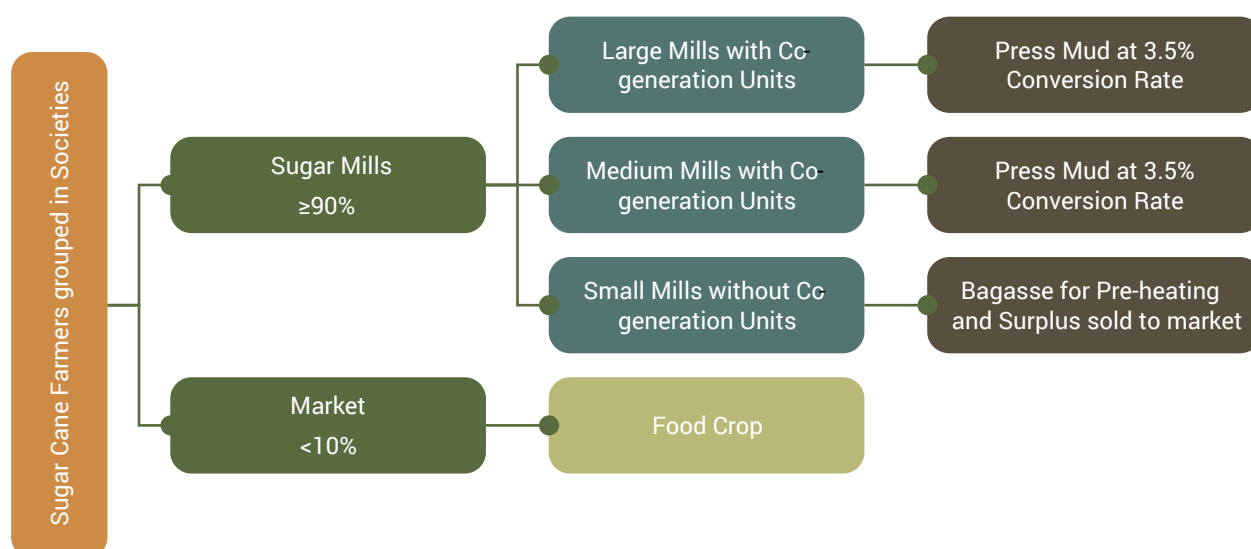


**Table 17: Operating parameters and conversion factors for sugar mills**

| Parameter                                                   | Value                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Conversion Factor (Sugarcane to Bagasse)                    | 40% TCD <sup>65</sup> |
| Conversion Factor (Sugarcane to Press mud)                  | 3.5% TCD              |
| Number of Operating Days (Large Sugar Mill)                 | 170 days              |
| Number of Operating Days (Small Sugar Mill <sup>66</sup> )  | 150 days              |
| Number of Operating Days (Medium Sugar Mill <sup>67</sup> ) | 150 days              |

Through our meetings with the District Cane Officer and Sugar Mill Operators, we understood the value chain for estimating the net available press mud or bagasse for CBG generation described below:

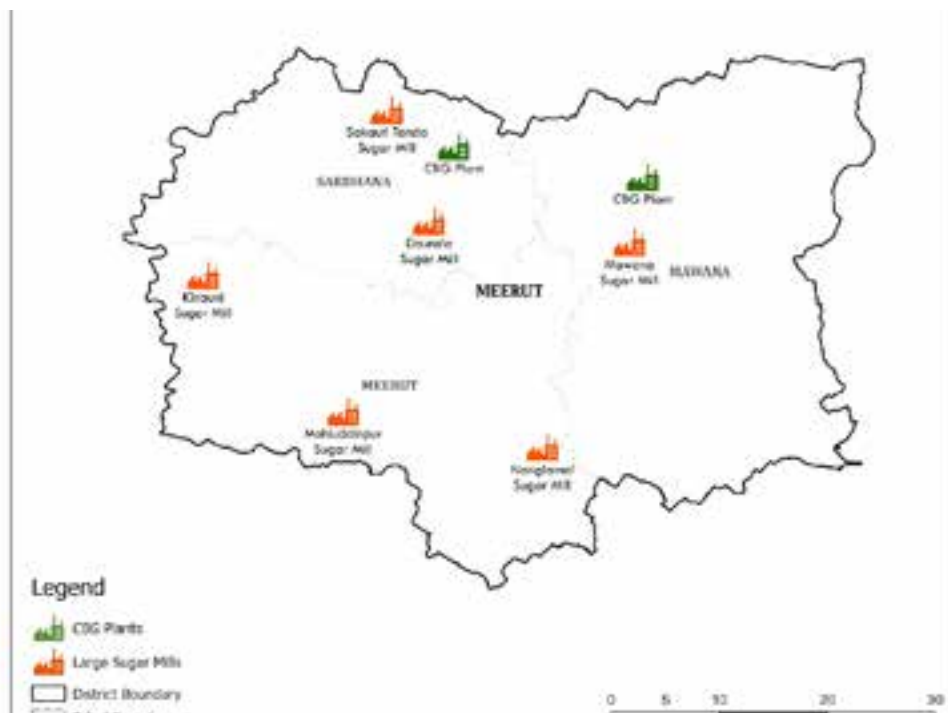
**Figure 16: Mapping the value chain of sugar industries**



<sup>65</sup> TCD stands for Total Cane Crushed in a Day at a Sugar Mill

<sup>66</sup> Small Sugar Mills (around 400 units in total) are informal small-scale mills which use Vertical Crushers to crush Sugarcane

<sup>67</sup> Medium Sugar Mills use Horizontal Crushers to crush Sugarcane



**Figure 17:** Location of sugar mills and CBG plants in the district

**Table 18:** Tehsil-wise sugar mills and their annual crushing capacity

| Tehsil   | Cane Crushing Capacity in TCD |                            |                                 |
|----------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
|          | Large Mills                   | Medium Mills               | Small Mills (Vertical Crushers) |
| Mawana   | 13000x1                       | 200x3                      | 239x7.5 TCD per plant           |
| Meerut   | 12000x1, 6000x1, 3500x1       | 200x5, 400x2, 100x1        | 180x8 TCD per plant             |
| Sardhana | 12500x1, 1800x1               | 400x1, 500x1, 200x3, 100x1 | 88x8 TCD per plant              |

## 4.2 Secondary Data Collection

Major reliance was placed on secondary data that was shared by the government at the central, state, district, and sub-district level. Crop yield data was collected from the Crop Production Statistics published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare for three-year period (2021-24) to arrive at an average. Further, the Crop-to-Residue Ratio (on dry weight basis) was borrowed from the latest National Biomass Atlas<sup>68</sup> which is described as under:

<sup>68</sup> National Biomass Atlas of India, 2023

**Table 19: Residue-to-crop ratio and surplus fraction for various agricultural residue**

| Crop      | Residue         | Residue to Crop Ratio | Surplus Fraction |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Wheat     | Straw           | 1.5                   | 0.2              |
|           | Husk            | 0.3                   | 0.2              |
| Paddy     | Straw           | 1.5                   | 0.17             |
|           |                 | 0.2                   | 0.17             |
| Sugarcane | Tops and leaves | 0.05                  | 1                |
| Maize     | Stalks          | 2                     | 0.01             |
|           | Cobs            | 0.3                   | 0.01             |
|           | Leaves          | 0.12                  | 0.01             |
| Mustard   | Stalks          | 1.8                   | 1                |
| Pulses    | Stalks          | 2.5                   | 1                |
| Potato    | Stalks          | 0.1                   | 1                |
| Vegetable | Stalks          | 0.1                   | 1                |
| Barley    | Straw           | 1.3                   | 1                |
| Bajra     | Stalks          | 2                     | 1                |
|           | Husk            | 0.3                   | 1                |
|           | Cobs            | 0.33                  | 1                |

Biogas yield for different crops/raw materials was shared by National Institute of Bioenergy (NIBE). For crops with unavailable crop-specific conversion factors, a standardised average conversion ratio (calculated on a dry weight basis) was applied to estimate biogas yield potential. This approach accounts for moisture content variations and ensures consistency in quantifying energy generation capacity from residual biomass.<sup>69</sup>

**Table 20: Biogas yield for various feedstocks as per NIBE estimates**

| Feedstock/Raw Material | Biogas Yield in m <sup>3</sup> /T |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Paddy Straw            | 250                               |
| Wheat Husk             | 200                               |
| Bagasse                | 85.5                              |
| Press Mud              | 110                               |
| MSW                    | 250                               |
| Napier Grass           | 120                               |

For animal waste, we derived the collectable dung, total solids, estimated theoretical biomass, availability coefficients for different animal groups (Large/Small/Medium/Swine/Poultry) summarised in the table below:

<sup>69</sup> As per the NIBE's approximations



**Table 21: Conversion factor for surplus biomass residue calculation of animals**

| Category | Animal                    | Collectable Dung (Kg/day) | Total Solids | Availability Coefficient | Biogas in m <sup>3</sup> | Multiplication Factor <sup>70</sup> |
|----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Large    | Cows, Buffalo             | 15                        | 25%          | 70%                      | 0.6                      | 4.76086                             |
| Small    | Sheep, Goat               | 1.6                       | 29%          | 20%                      | 0.4                      | 4                                   |
| Swine    | Pigs                      | 2.7                       | 29%          | 60%                      | 0.4                      | 4                                   |
| Poultry  | Broiler, Layer, and Other | 0.045                     | 29%          | 60%                      | 0.8                      | 4.71428                             |

Alternatively, we also know from various studies that 0.04 m<sup>3</sup> of biogas can be generated from 1 kg of cattle dung.

**Table 22: Calorific values<sup>71,72</sup> for animal residue**

| Animal Residue  | Calorific Value |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cattle Dung     | 3900 Kcal/Kg    |
| Sheep/Goat Dung | 3000 Kcal/Kg    |
| Swine Dung      | 17.9 MJ/Kg      |
| Poultry Litter  | 16 MJ/Kg        |

To understand which feedstock is best for CBG production, we used SATAT data published by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)<sup>73</sup>. The tentative yield of various feedstocks is tabulated as under:

**Table 23: Tentative CBG yield from various feedstocks<sup>80</sup>**

| Feedstock             | CBG Production (T) | Feedstock requirement |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Agriculture Residue   | 1                  | 10 T                  |
| Press Mud             | 1                  | 25 T                  |
| Spent Wash            | 1                  | 10 KL                 |
| Bagasse               | 1                  | 10 T                  |
| Municipal Solid Waste | 1                  | 20 T                  |
| Cow Dung              | 1                  | 50 T                  |
| Chicken Litter        | 1                  | 25 T                  |
| Forest Residue        | 1                  | 15 T                  |
| Napier Grass          | 1                  | 10 T                  |
| Sewage Waste          | 1                  | 15 MLD                |

<sup>70</sup> United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) & GEF 2022, District Wise Assessment of Waste Availability and Energy Generation Potential (Power, Bio-CNG) in Four Priority Industrial Sectors (Fruit and Vegetable Processing, Poultry, Cattle and Press Mud) ACROSS India.

<sup>71</sup> J.R. Backhurst, et.al., Evaluation of physical properties of pig manure, Journal of Agricultural Engineering Research, Vol. 19, Issue 2, 1974, pp. 199-207

<sup>72</sup> O, Larina, et.al., Influence of different temperature regimes at torrefaction of chicken litter on yield and properties of products, Energy Systems Research 2019

<sup>73</sup> MoPNG, SATAT, Frequently Asked Questions, <https://satat.co.in/satat/#/faq>



# Stakeholder Mapping

## 5.1 Identification of Relevant Stakeholders

**M**ultiple stakeholders were identified for data collection and to conduct surveys. This study involved engagement with stakeholders from government at the centre, state, district and sub-district level, and a few private players to primarily collect data on biomass production, yield, livestock population, biomass supply chain, etc.

**Table 24: Stakeholders in bio-energy value chain**

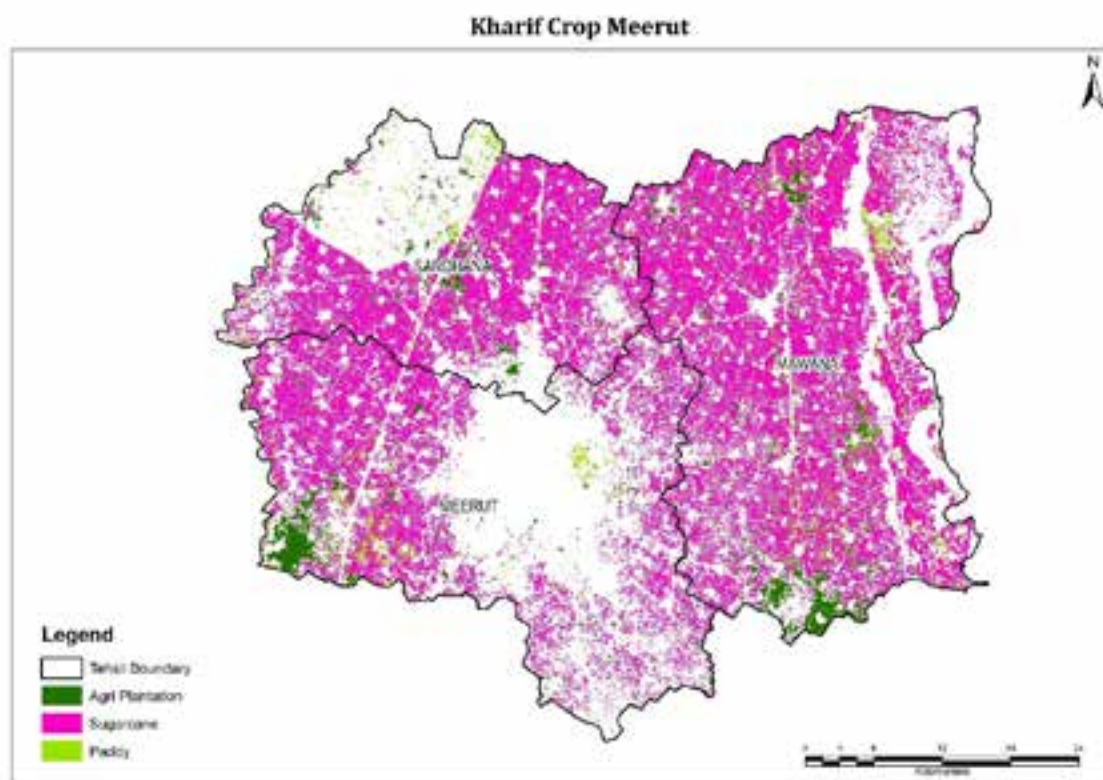
| Sector             | Stakeholder                                    | Data                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Central Government | National Institute of Bioenergy                | Clarification on surplus factors (the proportion of agricultural/industrial residues available beyond existing uses) and the conversion factor used to translate surplus biomass residues (in T) into potential CBG capacity (TPD). Additionally, the support was provided to identify priority biomass residues (e.g., crop stubble, livestock manure, agro-processing waste) with the highest biogas potential, alongside assessing the suitability of industrial organic waste as feedstock. |
| State Government   | Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department       | Livestock Census 2019 data (Tehsil-wise), List of cowsheds in the district                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                    | Agriculture Department                         | Tehsil-wise and block-wise crop production and yield statistics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                    | Sugar Industry and Cane Development Department | Society-wise cane production and yield across the district                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                    | Directorate of Economics and Statistics        | Tehsil-wise land use, irrigation, crop production statistics for Meerut District                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Private            | Sugar Mills – Large, Medium and Small          | Annual cane crushing capacity, press mud market and management, conversion factor for bagasse and press mud in a sugar mill, Bagasse generating capacity for small-sized informal sugar mills                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                    | Operational CBG Plant                          | Plant Capacity, Feedstock mix, raw material procurement plan, stocking and reserves, land area, contingency planning, etc.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |



# GIS-based Satellite Mapping

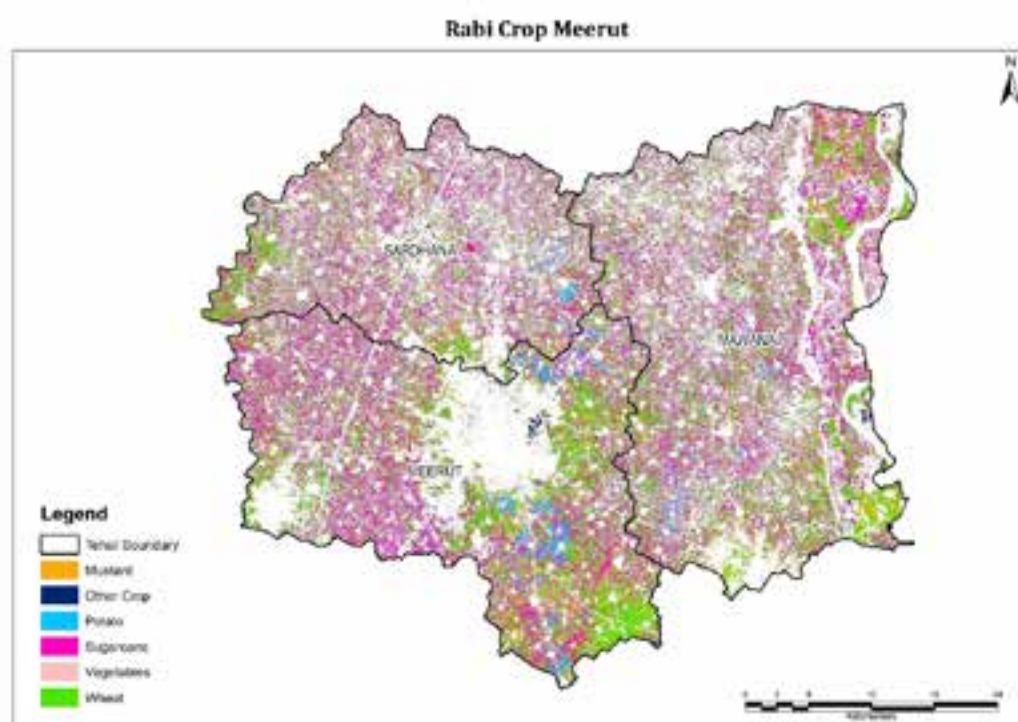
## 6.1 Cropping Pattern and Analysis

**I**t can be observed from the Kharif crop map that sugarcane is widely cultivated across all tehsils with Meerut and Mawana tehsils having the highest cultivation. Mawana tehsil also had the highest paddy cultivation. Meerut and Mawana tehsils also had cultivated bajra during the same period.



**Figure 18. Geographical spread of Kharif crops in tehsils of Meerut district during 2023-24<sup>74</sup>**

During Rabi season, wheat is predominantly grown across all the tehsils with traces of mustard, potato, vegetables, etc in other tehsils.



**Figure 19. Geographical spread of Rabi crops in tehsils of Meerut during 2023-24<sup>75</sup>**

<sup>74</sup> Analysis by Vasudha Foundation, 2025

<sup>75</sup> Analysis by Vasudha Foundation, 2025

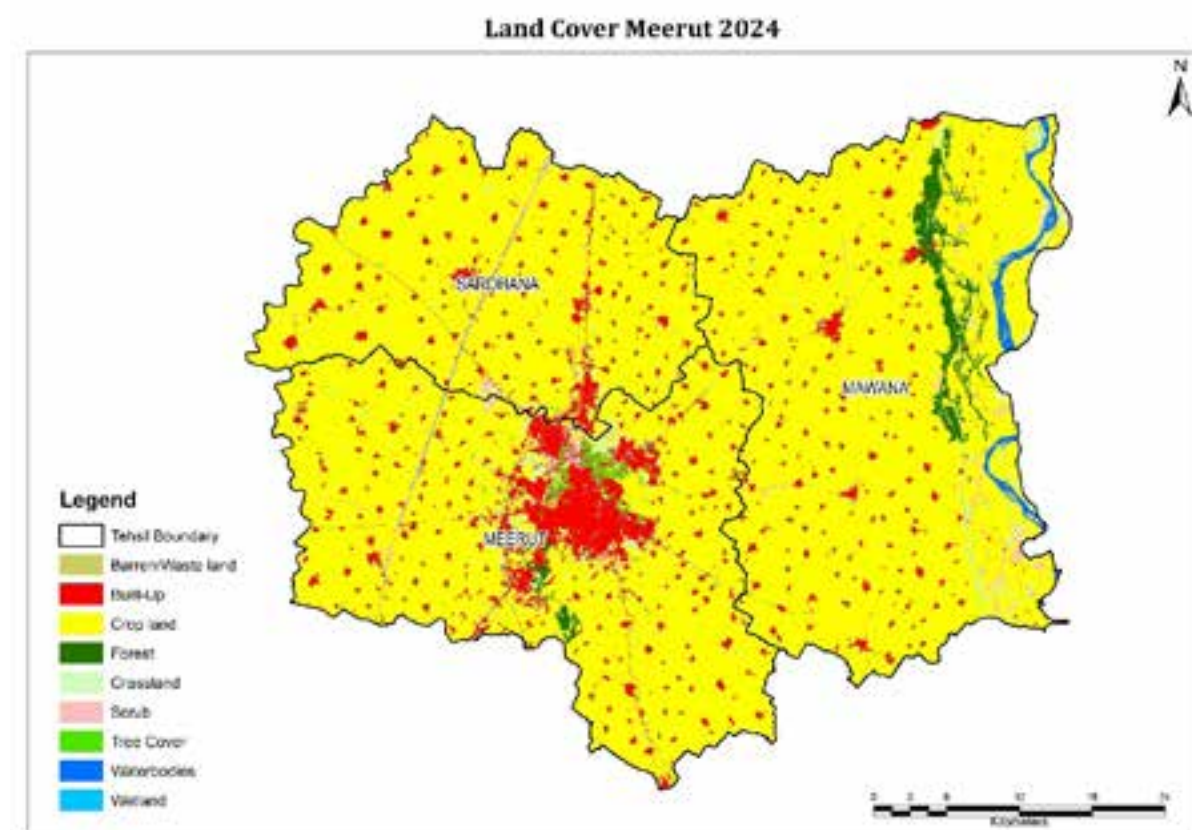
## 6.2 Land Use and Biomass Distribution Mapping

The statistics of land use are important for studying the changes in land use patterns, cropping patterns, impact of development programmes, as well as the efficient utilisation of most valuable natural resource. Land Use was analysed for Meerut during the year 2023-24, and the results are summarised below:

**Table 25: Tehsil-wise land use analysis for Meerut in ha.**

| Tehsil   | Barren/<br>Waste<br>land | Built-Up | Crop<br>land | Forest  | Grass<br>land | Scrub   | Tree<br>Cover | Water<br>bodies | Wetland |
|----------|--------------------------|----------|--------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|-----------------|---------|
| Mawana   | 1719.12                  | 3822.08  | 92183.85     | 3553.54 | 34.42         | 2693.58 | -             | 1783.17         | 8.61    |
| Meerut   | 1014.20                  | 11647.77 | 75352.65     | 529.78  | 116.11        | 4327.84 | 1101.86       | 112.20          | 0.08    |
| Sardhana | 446.56                   | 3825.92  | 52977.36     | -       | 75.86         | 1827.49 | 23.77         | 109.40          | 0.26    |

It can be observed from the land use analysis<sup>76</sup> that nearly 85 percent of the total geographical area of the district was under cultivation during 2023-24.



**Figure 20: Land cover analysis for tehsils of Meerut during 2023-24<sup>77</sup>**

<sup>76</sup> Analysis by Vasudha Foundation, 2025

<sup>77</sup> Analysis by Vasudha Foundation, 2025

# Methodology

**T**his study estimates annual net biomass residue availability in all the three tehsils of Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. It takes into account the competing uses of the biomass in the respective tehsil and generates a net value of the residue and corresponding theoretical value of compressed biogas (TPD) that can be generated out of it. The following approach was adopted for various feedstocks in consideration:

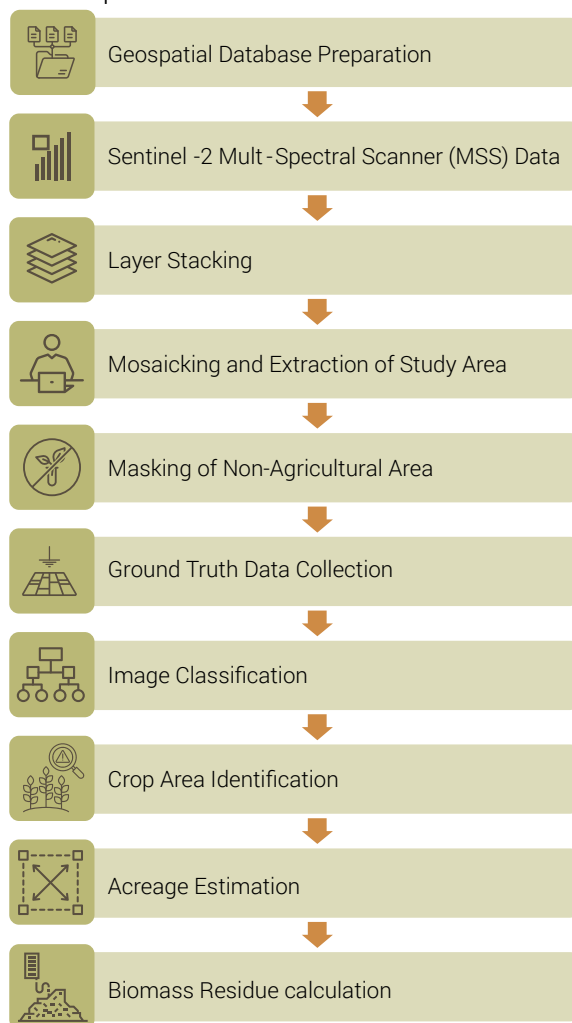
## 7.1 Agricultural Residue

The study integrated Geographic Information System (GIS) tools and seasonal satellite imagery to analyse spatial and temporal trends in crop residues. Sentinel-2 satellite data was processed to estimate the cultivated area of kharif and rabi crops. The workflow began with layer stacking and mosaicking of satellite images, followed by spatial sub setting to focus on Meerut and its seven tehsils using administrative boundaries. A district-level land use/landcover map was then generated, and non-agricultural regions such as forests, water bodies, and urban areas were masked to isolate farmland.

Crop acreage estimation was conducted using the Support Vector Machine (SVM)<sup>78</sup>, a supervised machine learning algorithm trained on ground-truth data to classify satellite imagery into distinct crop categories. This approach enabled precise mapping of kharif and rabi cultivation zones by assigning pixel-level classifications. After determining crop-specific acreage, the study incorporated existing

<sup>78</sup> Support Vector Machine (SVM) is a supervised machine learning algorithm used for classification and regression tasks.

district- and tehsil-level agricultural statistics—such as yield per hectare—to calculate total production. By merging remote sensing data with regional agricultural records, the analysis provided granular insights into crop productivity patterns across administrative scales, enhancing understanding of spatial variations in agricultural output.



**Figure 21: Flow diagram of the methodology used**

Once we have the crop-wise acreage and yield estimates, we can calculate the corresponding biomass residue that is generated and that is in surplus for energy generation. The following terminologies and equations would be used in estimating annual biomass residue that would be generated.

Gross crop residue<sup>79</sup> can be defined as the sum total of crop residues produced for a particular crop. In general, there is a 1:1 grain-to-residue relationship between the dry matter of crop grain and the dry matter of crop residues.<sup>80,81</sup> It is determined based on three important parameters such as: area occupied by the particular crop, crop yield and Residue Production Ratio (RPR) value for that crop.

$$CRg(j) = \sum_{i=1}^n A(i, j) \times Y(i, j) \times RPR(i, j)$$

**Equation 1: Gross crop residue calculation**

79 S,K, Lohan. et.al., 2018, Burning issues of paddy residue management in north-west states of India, Renewable and Sustainable energy reviews, 81, pp.693-706.

80 G, Kaur. K, Yadwinder. et.al., 2017 Potential of Livestock Generated Biomass: Untapped Energy Source in India, Energies MDPI

81 J, Sheehan, et. al., 2003, Energy and Environmental Aspects of Using Corn Stover for Fuel Ethanol, Journal of Industrial Ecology 7:117-46

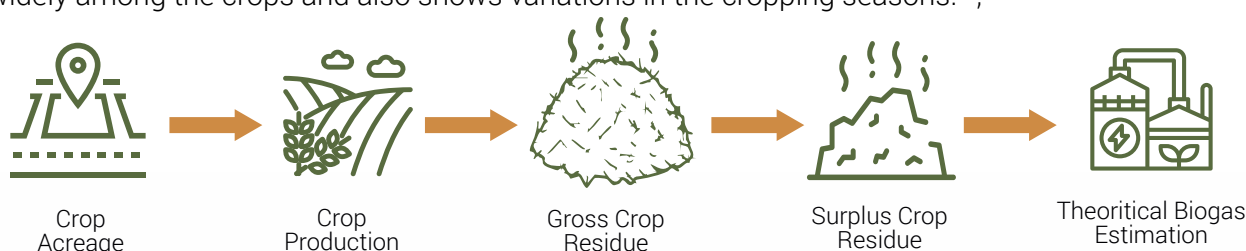
Here,  $CRg(j)$  denotes the gross crop residue for n number of crops at  $j^{th}$  state, in tonnes; and  $A(i,j)$  denotes the area covered by  $i^{th}$  crop at  $j^{th}$  state, in hectares;  $Y(i,j)$  denotes the yield of the  $i^{th}$  crop at  $j^{th}$  state, in tonnes/hectare, and  $RPR(i,j)$  denotes the residue to product ratio for the given  $i^{th}$  crop at  $j^{th}$  state.

The surplus crop residue of particular crop represents the amount of crop residues that are available for energy production after all the other competing uses such as cooking fuel, cattle feed, roof thatching, composting, animal bedding, and others are taken into consideration (as described in **Figure 15**).<sup>82</sup>

$$CRs(j) = \sum_{i=1}^n CRg(i, j) \times SF(i, j)$$

### Equation 2: Surplus crop residue calculation

CRs denotes the surplus crop residue for n number of crops, in tonnes which is estimated based on the surplus factor developed depending on different uses of the crop residue. Surplus Factor (SF) varies widely among the crops and also shows variations in the cropping seasons.<sup>83,84</sup>



**Figure 22. Flow diagram for crop residue estimation**

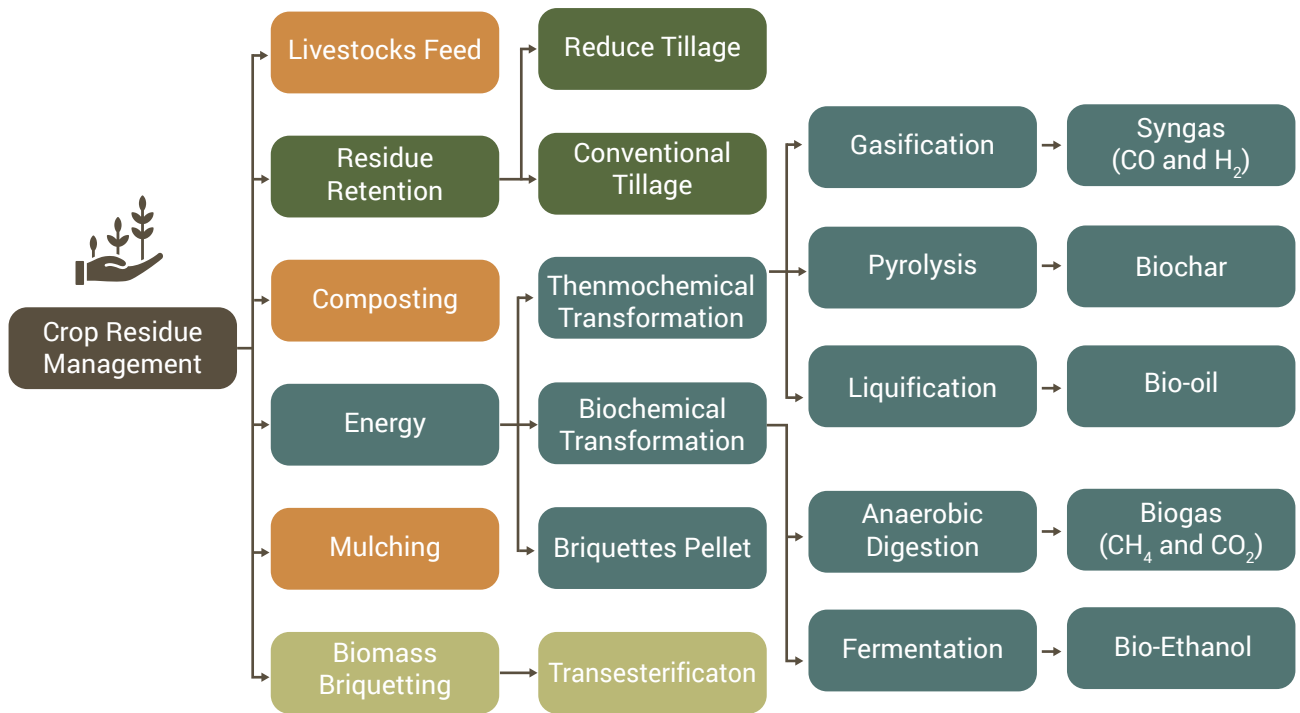


82 V, Venkatraman., et. al., 2021 Assessment of Bioenergy Generation Potential of Agricultural Crop Residues in India, Circular Economy and Sustainability, 1(4) pp. 1335-1348

83 M, Hiloidhari and D.C., Baruah., 2011, Crop residue biomass for decentralized electrical power generation in rural areas (part I): Investigation of spatial availability, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Review, 15, pp. 1885-92

84 Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) & Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Estimation of Surplus Crop Residues in India for Biofuel Production, October 2018





**Figure 23: Crop residue management practices<sup>85</sup>**

After taking into consideration of the competing uses for the specific crop residue, the net crop residue,  $CRn(j)$ , is estimated for  $n$  number of crops at  $j$ th state, in tonnes.

$$CRn(j) = \sum_{i=1}^n CRs(i, j) - CRc(i, j)$$

**Equation 3: Net Crop Residue Calculation**

Here,  $CRc$  denotes the competing usage of  $i$ th crop residue at  $j$ th state and  $CRn$  is the net crop residue available for energy generation at  $j$ th state.

$$TBEn(j) = \sum_{i=1}^n CRn(i, j) \times 0.55 \times BY(i, j) \times 0.657 \times \frac{1}{365 \times 1000}$$

**Equation 4: Theoretical Estimation of CBG from Agricultural Residues**

Here,  $TBEn$  denotes the Theoretical Biogas Estimation (CBG) in TPD for  $n$ th crop at  $j$ th state, 0.55 indicates the percent composition of methane,  $BY$  denotes the Biogas Yield for the  $i$ th crop at  $j$ th state, 0.657 is the density of methane in  $Kg/m^3$ .

## 7.2 Livestock Residue

The data on livestock population at the district level and tehsil level are used to estimate the total dung/litter that could be generated.

<sup>85</sup> N.R, Gatkai., et.al., Present trends, sustainable strategies and energy potentials of crop residue management in India: A review, Heliyon, Vol. 10, Issue 21 2024



$$TBEn(j) = \sum_{i=1}^n CRn(i,j) \times 0.55 \times BY(i,j) \times 0.657 \times \frac{1}{365 \times 1000}$$

**Equation 5: Theoretical CBG Estimation from Livestock Residues**

Here,  $TBEn(j)$  is the Theoretical Biogas Estimation (CBG) in TPD for  $n$ th livestock at  $j$ th state,  $D$  denotes the dung generation from  $i$ th livestock at  $j$ th state,  $Y$  denotes the annual dung yield,  $TS$  denotes the Total Solids in the dung/litter,  $AC$  denotes the Availability Coefficient (considering the competing uses of cattle dung/poultry litter) and  $MF$  is the multiplication factor for the respective organic matter. Any bulk usage of dung in, say for example, existing CBG plants, should be considered for calculating the Net Available Residue.

08

# Biomass Category, Sources and Availability

## 8.1 Agricultural Residues

**Table 26: Tehsil-wise surplus biomass and potential CBG generation for various agricultural residue**

| Tehsil | Production              |           |              | Total Production (T) | Gross Residue Production (T)*Crop-to-Residue Ratio |           |           | Surplus Residue Gross Residue (T)*Surplus Fraction | Net Residue (T) | CBG             |                 |                   |
|--------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|        | Name                    | Area (ha) | Yield (T/ha) |                      |                                                    |           |           |                                                    |                 | Potential (TPA) | Potential (TPD) | Potential (SATAT) |
| Mawana | Wheat                   | 20086.89  | 4.34         | 87177.10             | Straw                                              | 130765.65 | 26153.13  | 26153.13                                           | 26153.13        | 1890.09         | 5.18            | 7.17              |
|        |                         |           |              |                      | Husk                                               | 26153.13  | 5230.63   | 5230.63                                            | 5230.63         | 378.02          | 1.04            | 1.43              |
|        | Paddy                   | 4785.71   | 2.77         | 13256.42             | Straw                                              | 19884.63  | 3380.39   | 3380.39                                            | 3380.39         | 274.84          | 0.75            | 2.91              |
|        |                         |           |              |                      | Husk                                               | 2651.28   | 450.72    | 450.72                                             | 450.72          | 36.65           | 0.10            |                   |
|        | Sugarcane               | 59651.18  | 91.38        | 5450924.83           | Bagasse (Small)                                    |           | 34416.00  |                                                    |                 | 1063.30         | 2.91            | 9.43              |
|        |                         |           |              |                      | Press Mud (Large)                                  |           | 0.00      |                                                    |                 | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00              |
|        |                         |           |              |                      | Press Mud (Medium)                                 |           | 5145.00   |                                                    |                 | 204.51          | 0.56            | 0.56              |
|        |                         |           |              |                      | Tops and Leaves                                    | 272546.24 | 272546.24 | 272546.24                                          | 272546.24       | 19078.24        | 52.27           | 52.27             |
|        | Mustard                 | 4054.95   | 1.52         | 6163.52              | Stalks                                             | 11094.34  | 11094.34  | 11094.34                                           | 11094.34        | 1109.43         | 3.04            | 3.04              |
|        | Pulses (Tur/Arhar)      | 0         | 0.95         | 0.00                 | Stalks                                             | 0.00      | 0.00      | 0.00                                               | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00              |
|        | Potato                  | 620.02    | 32.37        | 20070.05             | Stalks                                             | 2007.00   | 2007.00   | 2007.00                                            | 2007.00         | 200.70          | 0.55            | 0.55              |
|        | Vegetables              | 102.28    | 15.55        | 1590.45              | Stalks                                             | 159.05    | 159.05    | 159.05                                             | 159.05          | 15.90           | 0.04            | 0.04              |
|        | Other Crops (Barley)    | 1219.74   | 3.73         | 4549.63              | Straw                                              | 5914.52   | 5914.52   | 5914.52                                            | 5914.52         | 591.45          | 1.62            | 1.62              |
|        | Agri-Plantation (Bajra) | 3966.09   | 1.74         | 6901.00              | Stalks                                             | 13801.99  | 13801.99  | 13801.99                                           | 13801.99        | 1380.20         | 3.78            | 3.78              |
|        |                         |           |              |                      | Husk                                               | 2070.30   | 2070.30   | 2070.30                                            | 2070.30         | 207.03          | 0.57            | 0.57              |
|        |                         |           |              |                      | Cobs                                               | 2277.33   | 2277.33   | 2277.33                                            | 2277.33         | 227.73          | 0.62            | 0.62              |

| Tehsil | Production              |              |                 | Total<br>Production<br>(T) | Gross Residue<br>Production (T)*Crop-to-<br>Residue Ratio | Surplus<br>Residue<br>Gross<br>Residue<br>(T)*Surplus<br>Fraction | Net<br>Residue<br>(T) | CBG<br>Potential<br>(TPA) | CBG<br>Potential<br>(TPD) | CBG<br>Potential<br>(SATAT) |
|--------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
|        | Name                    | Area<br>(ha) | Yield<br>(T/ha) |                            |                                                           |                                                                   |                       |                           |                           |                             |
| Meerut | Wheat                   | 19340.55     | 4.34            | 83937.99                   | Straw                                                     | 25181.40                                                          | 25181.40              | 1819.86                   | 4.99                      | 6.90                        |
|        |                         |              |                 |                            | Husk                                                      | 5036.28                                                           | 5036.28               | 363.97                    | 1.00                      | 1.38                        |
|        | Paddy                   | 1951.72      | 2.77            | 5406.26                    | Straw                                                     | 1378.60                                                           | 1378.60               | 112.09                    | 0.31                      | 1.18                        |
|        |                         |              |                 |                            | Husk                                                      | 183.81                                                            | 183.81                | 14.94                     | 0.04                      |                             |
|        |                         |              |                 |                            | Bagasse (Small)                                           | 27648.00                                                          |                       | 854.20                    | 2.34                      | 2.34                        |
|        |                         |              |                 |                            | Press Mud (Large)                                         | 110404.00                                                         |                       | 4388.39                   | 12.02                     | 12.10                       |
|        | Sugarcane               | 38061.62     | 91.38           | 3478070.84                 | Press Mud (Medium)                                        | 32795.00                                                          |                       | 1303.55                   | 3.57                      | 3.59                        |
|        |                         |              |                 |                            | Tops and Leaves                                           | 173903.54                                                         | 173903.54             | 12173.25                  | 33.35                     | 33.35                       |
|        | Mustard                 | 4825.6       | 1.52            | 7334.91                    | Stalks                                                    | 13202.84                                                          | 13202.84              | 1320.28                   | 3.62                      | 3.62                        |
|        | Pulses (Tur/Arhar)      | 0            | 0.95            | 0.00                       | Stalks                                                    | 0.00                                                              | 0.00                  | 0.00                      | 0.00                      | 0.00                        |
|        | Potato                  | 1924.51      | 32.37           | 62296.39                   | Stalks                                                    | 6229.64                                                           | 6229.64               | 622.96                    | 1.71                      | 1.71                        |
|        | Vegetables              | 565.76       | 15.55           | 8797.57                    | Stalks                                                    | 879.76                                                            | 879.76                | 87.98                     | 0.24                      | 0.24                        |
|        | Other Crops (Barley)    | 908          | 3.73            | 3386.84                    | Straw                                                     | 4402.89                                                           | 4402.89               | 440.29                    | 1.21                      | 1.21                        |
|        | Agri-Plantation (Bajra) | 2738.67      | 1.74            | 4765.29                    | Stalks                                                    | 9530.57                                                           | 9530.57               | 953.06                    | 2.61                      | 2.61                        |
|        |                         |              |                 |                            | Husk                                                      | 1429.59                                                           | 1429.59               | 142.96                    | 0.39                      | 0.39                        |
|        |                         |              |                 |                            | Cobs                                                      | 1572.54                                                           | 1572.54               | 157.25                    | 0.43                      | 0.43                        |

| Tehsil   | Production              |           |              | Total Production (T) | Gross Residue Production (T)*Crop-to-Residue Ratio |           | Surplus Residue Gross Residue (T)*Surplus Fraction | Net Residue (T) | CBG Potential |       |         |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|---------|
|          | Name                    | Area (ha) | Yield (T/ha) |                      |                                                    |           |                                                    |                 | (TPA)         | (TPD) | (SATAT) |
| Sardhana | Wheat                   | 10534.17  | 3.34         | 35184.13             | Straw                                              | 52776.19  | 10555.24                                           | 10555.24        | 762.83        | 2.09  | 3.76    |
|          |                         |           |              |                      | Husk                                               | 10555.24  | 2111.05                                            | 2111.05         | 152.57        | 0.42  | 0.75    |
|          | Paddy                   | 1523.24   | 2.77         | 4219.37              | Straw                                              | 6329.06   | 1075.94                                            | 1075.94         | 87.48         | 0.24  | 0.92    |
|          |                         |           |              |                      | Husk                                               | 843.87    | 143.46                                             | 143.46          | 11.66         | 0.03  |         |
|          |                         |           |              |                      | Bagasse (Small)                                    |           | 13516.80                                           |                 | 537.27        | 1.47  | 1.14    |
|          |                         |           |              |                      | Press Mud (Large)                                  |           | 62108.00                                           |                 | 2468.70       | 6.76  | 6.81    |
|          | Sugarcane               | 31344.86  | 91.38        | 2864293.31           | Press Mud (Medium)                                 |           | 7864.50                                            |                 | 316.94        | 0.87  | 0.86    |
|          |                         |           |              |                      | Tops and Leaves                                    | 143214.67 | 143214.67                                          | 143214.67       | 10025.03      | 27.47 | 27.47   |
|          | Mustard                 | 1663.25   | 1.52         | 2528.14              | Stalks                                             | 303.38    | 303.38                                             | 303.38          | 30.34         | 0.08  | 0.08    |
|          | Pulses (Tur/Arhar)      | 0         | 0.95         | 0.00                 | Stalks                                             | 0.00      | 0.00                                               | 0.00            | 0.00          | 0.00  | 0.00    |
|          | Potato                  | 535.02    | 32.37        | 17318.60             | Stalks                                             | 1731.86   | 1731.86                                            | 1731.86         | 173.19        | 0.47  | 0.47    |
|          | Vegetables              | 66.68     | 15.55        | 1036.87              | Stalks                                             | 103.69    | 103.69                                             | 103.69          | 10.37         | 0.03  | 0.03    |
|          | Other Crops (Barley)    | 762.38    | 3.73         | 2843.68              | Straw                                              | 3696.78   | 3696.78                                            | 3696.78         | 369.68        | 1.01  | 1.01    |
|          | Agri-Plantation (Bajra) | 1530.4    | 1.74         | 2662.90              | Stalks                                             | 5325.79   | 5325.79                                            | 5325.79         | 532.58        | 1.46  | 1.46    |
|          |                         |           |              |                      | Husk                                               | 798.87    | 798.87                                             | 798.87          | 79.89         | 0.22  | 0.22    |
|          |                         |           |              |                      | Cobs                                               | 878.76    | 878.76                                             | 878.76          | 87.88         | 0.24  | 0.24    |



## 8.2 Animal Waste

The cumulative biogas produced from livestock waste is influenced by several critical factors, including the animal type and breed, average body weight, diet composition, and total solids content in excrement. To accurately quantify biogas yield per unit, a standardised method for collecting dung is essential. Only through such standardised collection techniques can a reliable cumulative biogas volume be determined, which is necessary for calculating the availability coefficient factor. This factor is crucial for predicting the expected and likely biogas yield from livestock waste.

**Table 27: Tehsil-wise surplus biomass residue and potential CBG generation from various animal residues**

| Tehsil        | Animal               | Popula-<br>tion | Collectable<br>Dung/Litter (Kg) | Total Solids | Availability<br>Coefficient | Surplus<br>Residue (T) | Bio Energy Po-<br>tential (MJ) | Bio Energy<br>Potential<br>(MW) | CBG<br>Potential<br>(TPD) | CBG<br>Potential<br>(SATAT) |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mawana        | Cattle               | 92488           | 506371800                       | 126592950    | 88615065                    | 88615.07               | 1445985184.64                  | 0.76392                         | 3.64                      | 4.86                        |
|               | Goat/Sheep           | 12668           | 7398112                         | 2145452.48   | 429090.496                  | 429.09                 | 5385943.91                     | 0.0057                          | 0.02                      | 0.03                        |
|               | Swine                | 1794            | 1767987                         | 512716.23    | 307629.738                  | 307.63                 | 5506572.31                     | 0.00385                         | 0.02                      | 0.02                        |
|               | Poultry<br>(Chicken) | 1,16,754        | 1917684.45                      | 556128.4905  | 333677.0943                 | 333.68                 | 5338833.51                     | 0.00496                         | 0.02                      | 0.04                        |
| Meerut        | Cattle               | 95199           | 521214525                       | 130303631.3  | 91212541.88                 | 91212.54               | 1488369773.30                  | 0.78632                         | 3.744                     | 5.00                        |
|               | Goat/Sheep           | 21577           | 12600968                        | 3654280.72   | 730856.144                  | 730.86                 | 9173706.32                     | 0.00974                         | 0.04                      | 0.06                        |
|               | Swine                | 3984            | 3926232                         | 1138607.28   | 683164.368                  | 683.16                 | 12228642.19                    | 0.00854                         | 0.0342                    | 0.05                        |
|               | Poultry<br>(Chicken) | 1,28,658        | 2113207.65                      | 612830.2185  | 367698.1311                 | 367.70                 | 5883170.10                     | 0.00547054                      | 0.0258                    | 0.04                        |
| Sardha-<br>na | Cattle               | 78879           | 431862525                       | 107965631.3  | 75575941.88                 | 75575.94               | 1233217989.14                  | 0.65152                         | 3.102                     | 4.14                        |
|               | Goat/Sheep           | 11774           | 6876016                         | 1994044.64   | 398808.928                  | 398.81                 | 5005849.66                     | 0.00532                         | 0.021                     | 0.03                        |
|               | Swine                | 2216            | 2183868                         | 633321.72    | 379993.032                  | 379.99                 | 6801875.27                     | 0.0047499                       | 0.019                     | 0.03                        |
|               | Poultry<br>(Chicken) | 1,13,775        | 1868754.375                     | 541938.7688  | 325163.2613                 | 325.16                 | 5202612.18                     | 0.00483771                      | 0.02281                   | 0.04                        |

## 8.3 Energy Crops

*Poplar Trees, Willow, Jatropha*

These crops were not identified in our GIS Crop Maps.

## 8.4 Other Types of Biomasses

### 8.4.1 Napier Grass

Napier Grass, also known as Elephant Grass or Uganda Grass is a species native to the tropical grasslands of Africa. It has a very high productivity, both as a forage grass for livestock and as a biofuel crop. It is most susceptible to frost and grows best in high-rainfall areas (in excess of 1500 mm/year), but its deep root system allows it to survive in drought times. Pusa Giant Napier, developed by IARI provides high yield (250-300 t/ha/year) of green matter under irrigated condition.<sup>86</sup>

Napier Grass can be used as a combination feedstock with paddy straw and animal dung when sugarcane press mud is unavailable (after sugar season).

### 8.4.2 Groundnut Shell

Groundnut is sown and harvested during the kharif season and yields groundnut shells as residue. During 2022-23, there were no groundnut harvested in the district.

### 8.4.3 Sugarcane Bagasse

Apart from large sugar mills, generally, there are small sugar mills (without a bagasse co-generation unit) that operate with vertical crushers in Uttar Pradesh. There are close to 507 sugar mills of varying cane crushing capacities across the district. These together contribute to approximately 75,580 T of bagasse generation in a year which corresponds to 6.72 TPD of CBG. However, bagasse is used captively for heating in the sugar and is sold for other secondary purposes.

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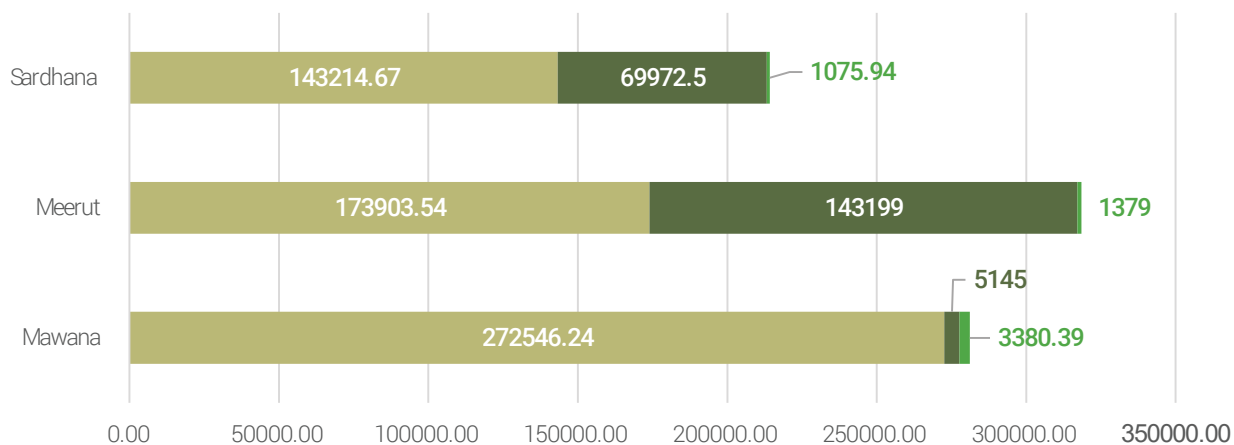
<sup>86</sup> Pandey K.C. and Roy A.K., 2011. p.23, Forage Crops Varieties, Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI)



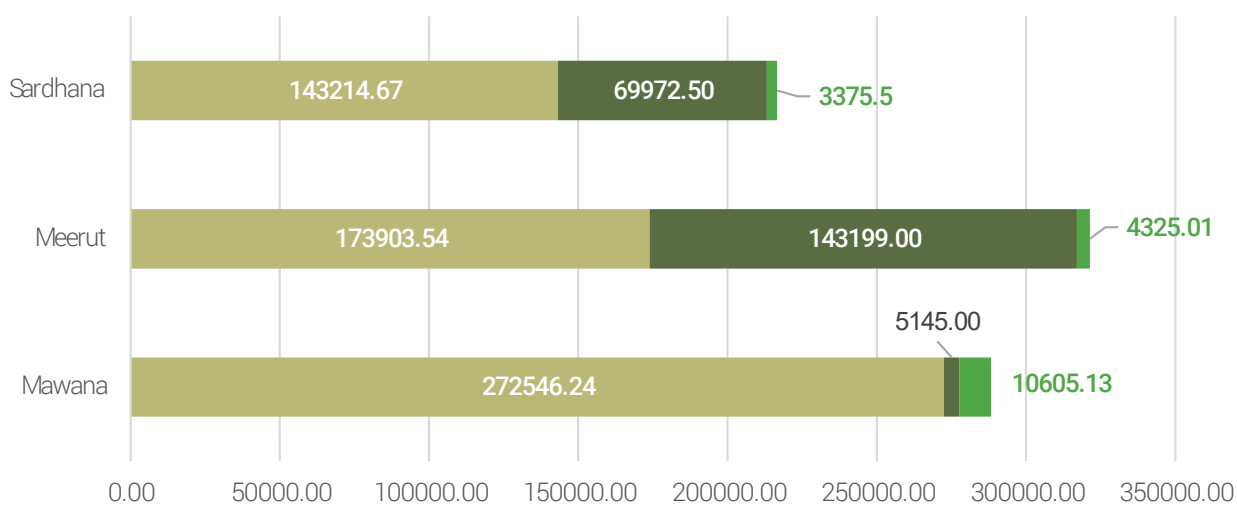
# Biomass Quantification Results

## 9.1 Total Biomass Availability by Category

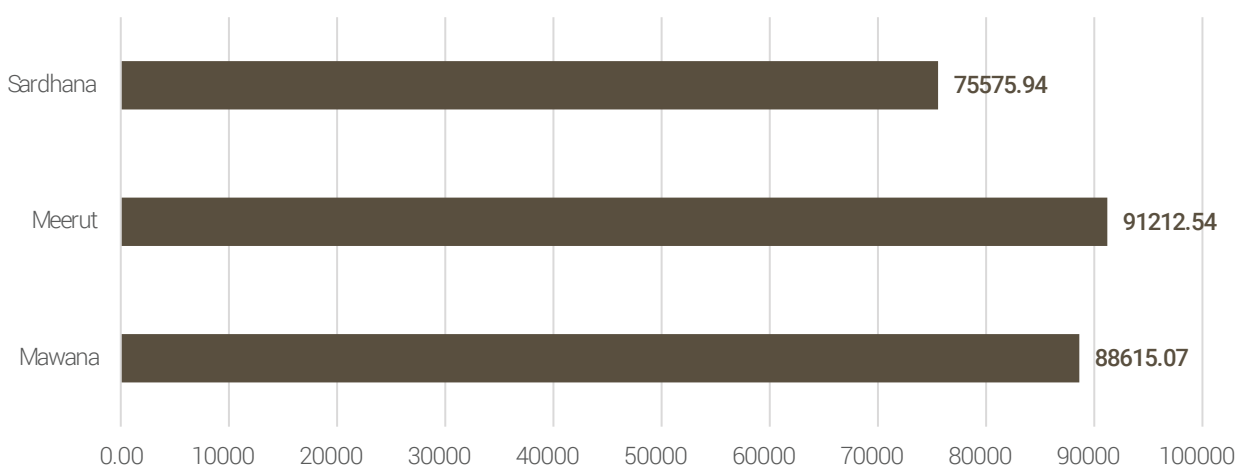
**M**ajor feedstocks that are taken into account for this categorisation are: paddy straw, sugarcane tops and leaves, sugarcane press mud, and cattle dung. Accordingly, the following results are observed for each Tehsil in Meerut.



 Sugarcane Leaves
  Sugarcane Pressmud
  Paddy Straw



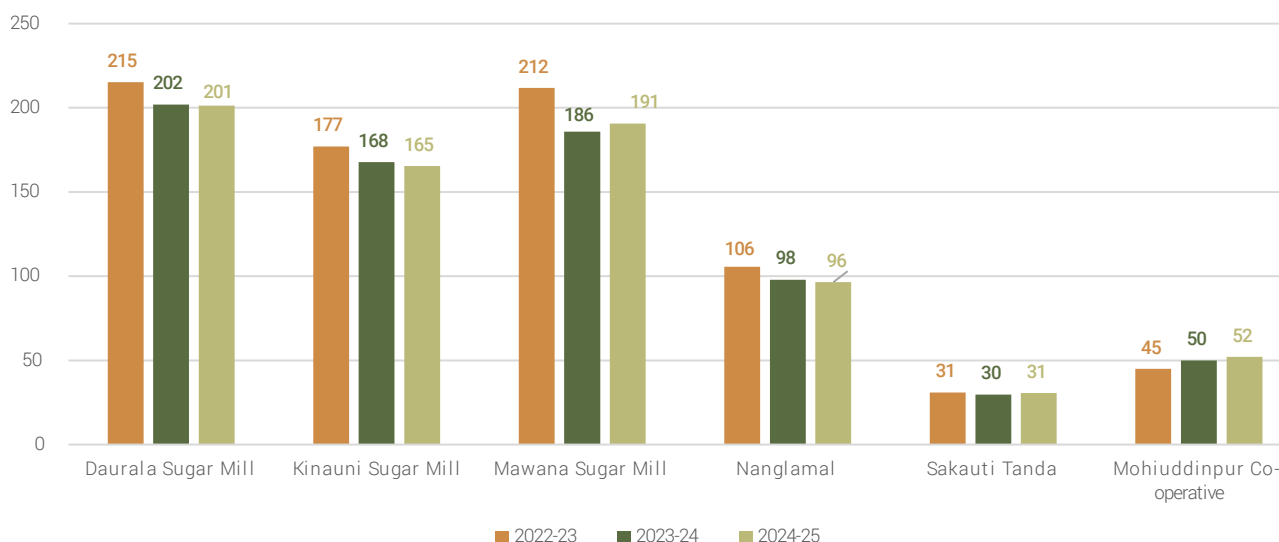
 Sugarcane Leaves
  Sugarcane Pressmud
  Paddy Straw



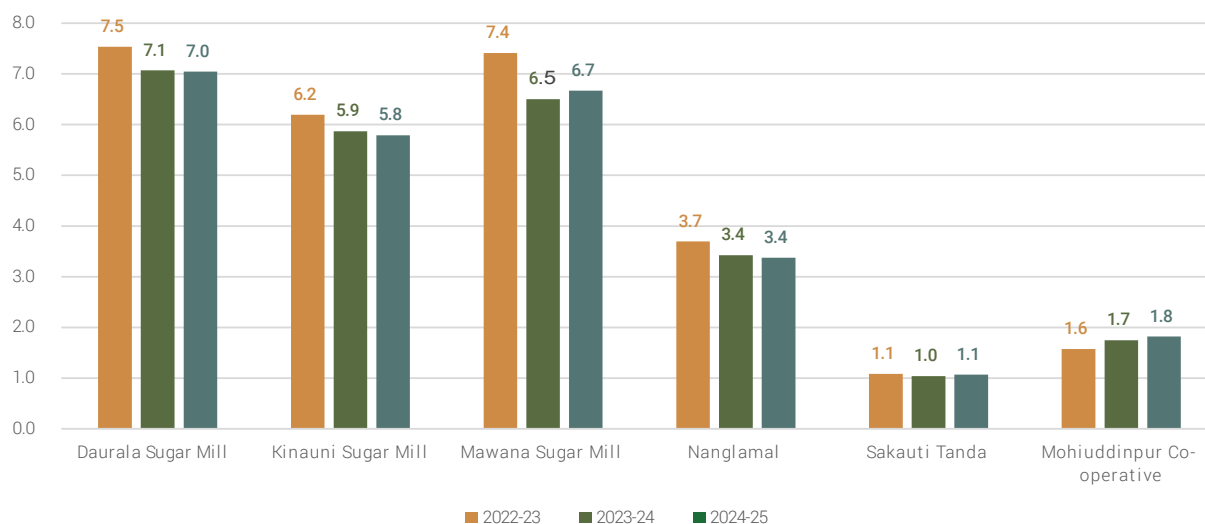
**Figure 24: Tehsil-wise annual availability of sugarcane leaves, paddy straw, press mud and cattle dung**

## 9.2 Variations in Biomass Availability and Pricing

The availability and generation of sugarcane press mud have varied over the years. From the figures (**Figure 25 and Figure 26**), the variation in availability of press mud in all the sugar mills can be attributed to the varying quantities of sugarcane crushed annually in these mills. **Figure 27** depicts the year-on-year change in press mud that is generated. The reasons that can be attributed to varying production could be due to adverse weather conditions (drought and excessive rainfall), crop diseases, etc. This condition is prevalent across the State. This can affect the pricing of the press mud. Based on the data that was shared by the Cane Commissioner, the cost of press mud for all sugar mills hovered between INR 15 to 60 per quintal during 2022-25.



**Figure 25: Annual cane crushed in sugar mills during 2021-25<sup>87</sup>**



**Figure 26: Annual press mud generated in sugar mills**

<sup>87</sup> Data shared by the Cane Development Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh



**Figure 27: YoY change in annual cane crushed and press mud generated during 2021-25**

It can be observed from **Figure 28** that the press mud price varies significantly in a year. A typical sugar mill runs only for 180 days in a year during the kharif season (mid-November to April). This season is characterised as a peak season. During this period, the price of sugarcane press mud is usually lowest in the year. As we move to non-sugar or off-peak season, price for press mud spikes. The reasons for the spike in price include: high demand for supply of press mud, shortage in availability of coal, high temperature, etc. As temperature increases, quality of press mud increases due to low moisture content. In speaking with the sugar mill operators following reasons were identified for fluctuations in press mud prices during the year 2020-25:

- › Price varies from plant to plant based on the operating efficiency, cane crushing capacity, quality of press mud that is generated (usually press mud with low sulphur content is preferred and is priced higher).
- › Sugar mills use coal as a supplementary fuel to run their co-generation unit and in seasons where the coal availability or its price is not favourable, press mud is captively used for cogeneration which reduces the surplus press mud.
- › Price also varies between sugar and non-sugar season in a particular year. Usually, it remains low in winter and increases as the temperature increases.





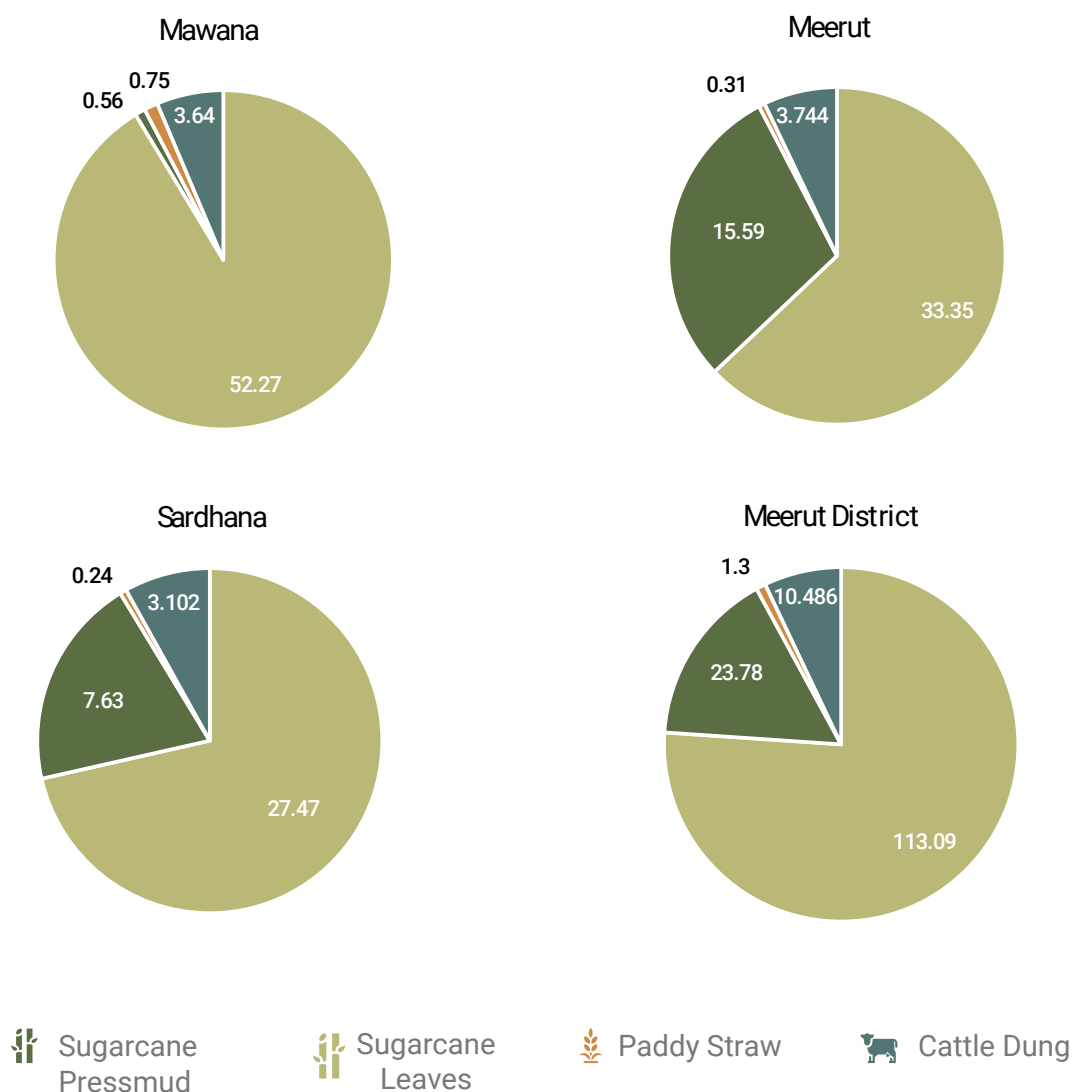
**Figure 28: Press mud price variations<sup>88</sup>**

<sup>88</sup> Entries 'zero' or 0 indicate that there was no sale of pressmud or the data was unavailable with the sugar mill

## 9.3 High-Potential Zones for Biomass Supply and CBG Production

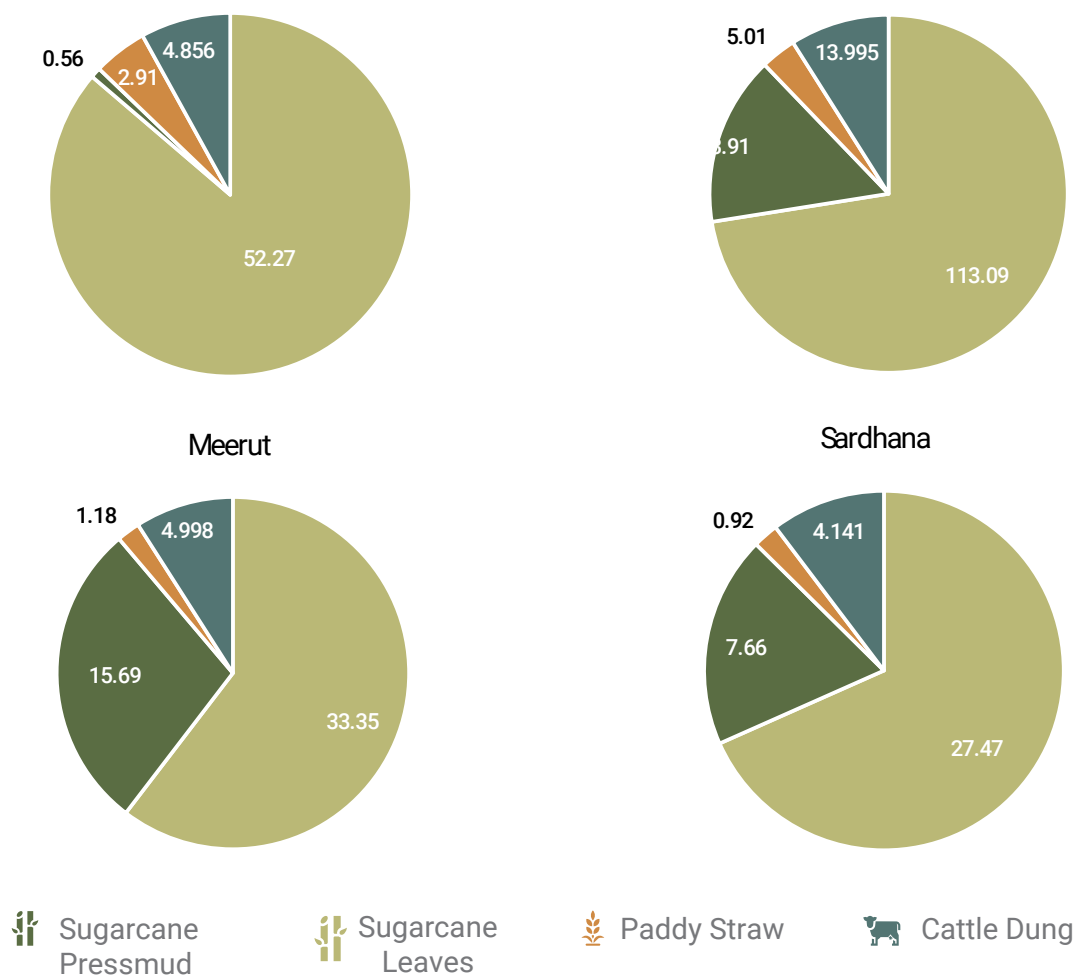
It can be observed that Mawana has the highest sugarcane cultivation and hence, availability of sugarcane tops and leaves. Mawana tehsil also has the highest paddy cultivation among all tehsils in the district.

On the basis of available feedstock, the CBG potential (TPD) was estimated for each feedstock in each tehsil which are described in the charts below:

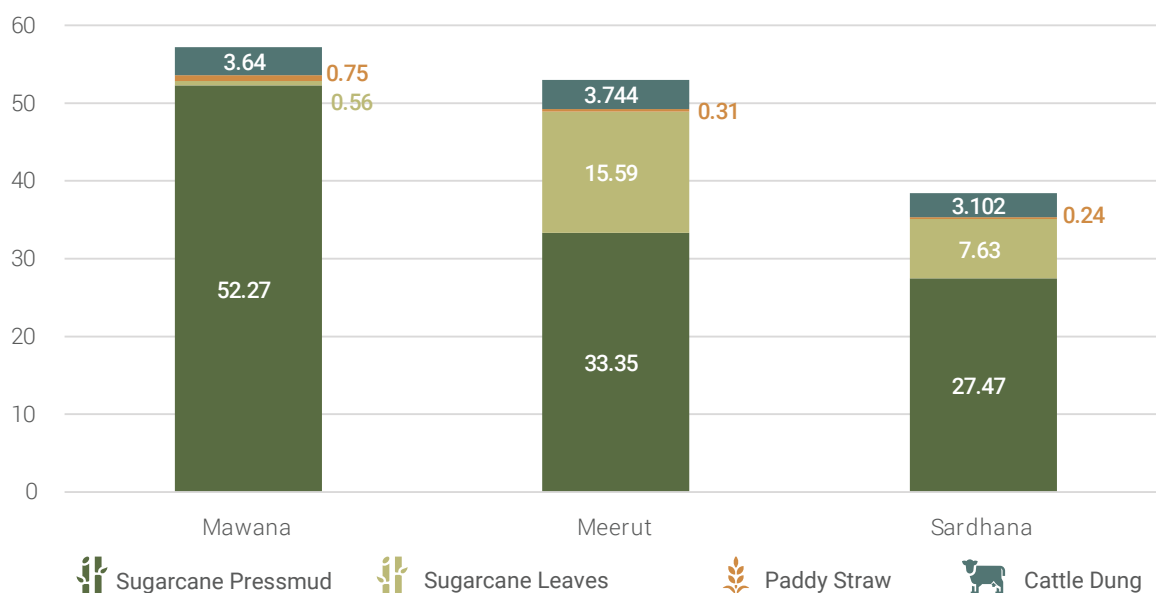


**Figure 29:** Tehsil-wise daily CBG generation potential for major feedstocks: Paddy straw, sugarcane leaves, cattle dung, and sugarcane press mud (as per NIBE estimates)

However, the figures showed a different result taking into consideration of the conversion factors suggested by SATAT.

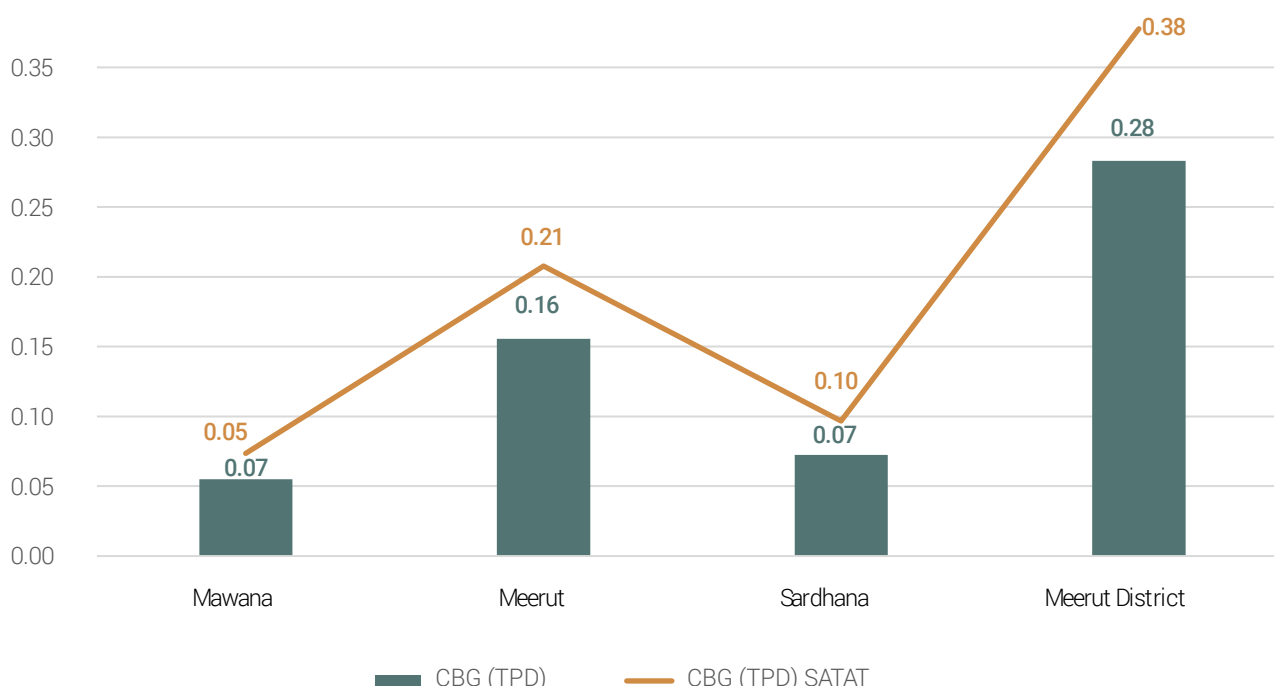


**Figure 30:** Tehsil-wise daily CBG generation potential for major feedstocks: Paddy straw, sugarcane leaves, cattle dung, and sugarcane press mud (as per SATAT estimates)



**Figure 31: CBG potential from major feedstocks (NIBE estimates)**

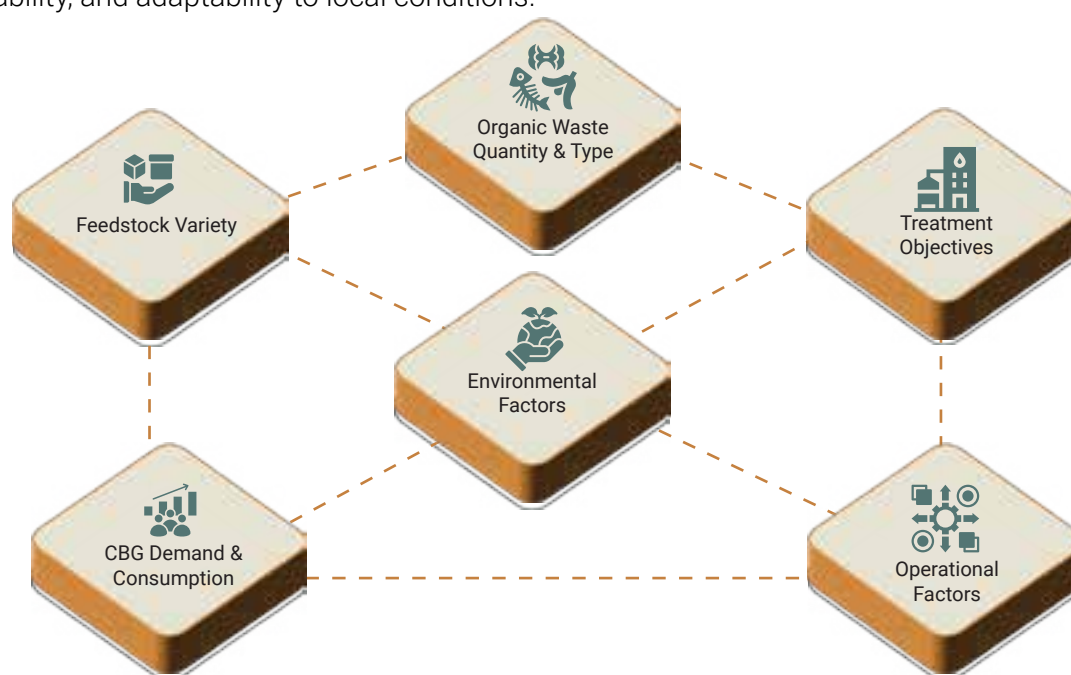
With respect to cattle dung as a feedstock, CBG developers prefer procuring cattle from nearby cowsheds (either government-owned or private). Based on the data from the Animal Husbandry department, we derived the tehsil-wise cattle population in these cowsheds.



**Figure 32: Tehsil-wise CBG potential from cattle sheds**

While the CBG capacity from various feedstocks has been outlined, it's essential to recognise that CBG plants usually operate on a mix of feedstocks rather than a single type. The sizing and design of these plants depend on a comprehensive set of factors (as captured in the Figure 33), including the quantity and variety of organic waste to be processed, the primary objective of waste treatment, demand for CBG, consumption patterns, local environmental conditions such as soil type and groundwater levels,

regional climate factors like temperature and seasonal wind patterns, and the expertise level of the operational staff. This multifaceted approach ensures that CBG plants are optimised for efficiency, sustainability, and adaptability to local conditions.



**Figure 33: Multi-faceted approach for planning location, size, feedstock category, etc. for CBG plants**

The total CBG potential (in TPD) can be summarised in a table as under:

**Table 29: Potential daily generation of CBG as per NIBE and SATAT estimates**

| Tehsil          | Sugarcane Leaves | Sugarcane Pressmud | Paddy Straw | Cattle Dung | Total   |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Mawana          | 52.27            | 0.56               | 0.75        | 3.64        | 57.22   |
| Meerut          | 33.35            | 15.59              | 0.31        | 3.744       | 52.994  |
| Sardhana        | 27.47            | 7.63               | 0.24        | 3.102       | 38.442  |
| Meerut District | 113.09           | 23.78              | 1.3         | 10.486      | 148.656 |
| Tehsil          | Sugarcane Leaves | Sugarcane Pressmud | Paddy Straw | Cattle Dung | Total   |
| Mawana          | 52.27            | 0.56               | 2.91        | 4.856       | 60.596  |
| Meerut          | 33.35            | 15.69              | 1.18        | 4.998       | 55.218  |
| Sardhana        | 27.47            | 7.66               | 0.92        | 4.141       | 40.191  |
| Meerut District | 113.09           | 23.91              | 5.01        | 13.995      | 156.005 |

We derive two different CBG Potential figures especially for paddy straw and cattle dung primarily because of the difference in Crop-to-Residue Ratios. According to NIBE, 0.17 percent of the gross crop residue is surplus and available for CBG production, whereas, according to UPNEDA, 0.40 percent of the gross crop residue is surplus.

As per the estimates, theoretically, Meerut has a CBG potential of approximately 148 TPD based on

the biomass available during the year 2023-24 and also on the net biomass available after considering the existing biomass-based industries. Out of all the tehsils, Mawana has the highest potential for CBG production with sugarcane leaves and sugarcane pressmud contributing more than 91 percent of the total feedstock. Meerut leads after Mawana with approximately 52 TPD of CBG production. At the end, it is crucial to note that the CBG quantification was conducted under ideal conditions. In reality, actual CBG production is influenced by several key operational parameters, including optimal temperature, pH levels, moisture content, toxicity levels, carbon-to-nitrogen (C/N) ratio, organic loading rate, and retention time. This underscores the importance for developers/investors to consider these multiple factors to maximise CBxXG yield.



# Recommendations

1. Meerut has a high theoretical potential for CBG with sugarcane leaves and paddy straw as its major feedstock. It is important to ensure that CBG plants are designed to handle combination feedstocks with paddy straw, Napier grass and cattle dung that can support year-round plant operation and maximises biogas yield. Among the feedstocks that were considered for the study, for a given quantity of biomass residue, press mud has the highest CBG yield.
2. Availability of appropriate biomass and reliable supply chain are indispensable for sustainability and financial feasibility of a CBG plant. Harvestable crop residues per unit of land also depend on region-specific crop production practises. Farmer's willingness to collect crop residues depend critically on the yields and on the biomass, prices provided in the market.<sup>89</sup>
3. A beneficial, reliable, and transparent pricing and payment mechanism can incentivise collection and availability of biomass. This would establish a biofuel-led economy that can offer unique opportunities for farmers, enhance their regular incomes by turning waste into wealth. This additional stream of income can be particularly beneficial during times of market volatility or poor harvests of traditional crops and continue to drive economic growth at grassroot level.
4. Encourage farmers to use bio-slurry from CBG plants as an organic fertiliser to improve soil health and crop productivity. Implement comprehensive training programs to educate farmers on its benefits and proper application methods. Additionally, provide hands-on demonstrations and success stories to encourage adoption. Establish support networks and incentives to facilitate

89 C, Xiaoguang., 2015, Assessment of Potential Biomass Supply from Crop Residues in China. Environment for Development

widespread usage and long-term sustainability.

5. CBG/Bio-fuel plant has to be designed, and tailor-made based on the crop residues for which the long-term availability is guaranteed based on forecasting and observing past trends.<sup>90</sup> Sugarcane and paddy have been dominant kharif crops for a long period of time and will continue to do so. From Agriculture Production Statistics, we can infer that sugarcane production has been on a steady rise with an average YoY growth rate of approximately 65 percent.
6. Explore the installation of Agricultural Photovoltaics (AgriPV) systems on fallow land to establish a conducive microclimate, promoting land reclamation for cultivation. These systems can support the growth of crops like Napier grass by improving soil moisture retention, minimising evapotranspiration, and offering partial shade. By harnessing AgriPV technology, farmers can optimise land use, enhance agricultural resilience, and increase overall productivity.
7. Examine ways to assist farmers in integrating AgriPV systems within horticultural zones to improve crop yields and biomass production. Research has shown that certain crops, including leafy greens and shade-tolerant vegetables, thrive under AgriPV systems, leading to enhanced growth and increased biomass availability for CBG generation. Supporting this initiative can optimise land use while promoting sustainable energy and agriculture.
8. For viable operations of CBG plant, logistics is key which can include residue harvest, collection, storage, transportation, etc. These are spatially interlinked and need meticulous planning. Barren lands or Fallow lands around the sugar mills (in 3-5km radius) can be identified for development of CBG projects. Proximity to cowsheds, poultry farms, and off-takers can also be mapped. For example, Petrol or Gas stations are potential off takers for CBG. Cultivation of energy crops like Napier grass should be prioritised only after considering the local biodiversity concerns.



**Figure 34: Cane moved from the field to sugar mills for crushing**

9. Dedicated biomass banks can be established either through a third-party agency or through existing institutions like FPOs that can ensure collection and storage of residues after harvest. Considering the seasonal availability of crop residues, efficient contingency planning should be in place in the event of supply shortage linked to any extreme event such as pandemic or climate-linked disaster. This can potentially cut off the supply chain and can leave the plant operations stranded. To ensure continuous operations, storage of excess crop residues can be planned either in-house or through an agency where the storage time could be decided based on the useful life of the residue. For example, press mud can last no longer than 60 days, so they can be organised in a live storage while paddy straw which can sustain longer can go into a dead storage. Feedstocks like paddy straw involves careful handling to preserve its energy value and prevent degradation due to microbial activity, moisture, or fire hazards.

<sup>90</sup> A. Chakraborty, A. Biswal et. al., Spatial Disaggregation of the Bioenergy Potential from Crop Residues using Geospatial Technique, Agricultural Sciences & Applications, Remote Sensing Applications Area, National Remote Sensing Centre, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)



## **Vasudha Foundation**

D-2, 2nd Floor, Southern Park, Saket District Centre,  
New Delhi-110 017, India

[www.vasudha-foundation.org](http://www.vasudha-foundation.org)

