

Varsity team gets bio-fuel patents

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A team of researchers from Pondicherry University's Fungal Biotechnology Laboratory in the Department of Biotechnology, has secured two German patents in biochemical engineering and fungal in-vitro bio-transformation for commercial-scale alternate fuel (ethanol) production.

The intellectual property rights relate to a circular economical bio-refinery model and a functional hybrid bio-reactor for better utilisation of nutrients to produce the intended products. The research team, led by Venkateswara Sar-

ma, comprised Navnit Kumar Ramamoorthy, Revanth Babu Pallam, Vinoth V., Shovan Rakshit, and Vignesh K. in addition to the collaborators Sudha Rani of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Pondicherry University and Renganathan S. of the Centre for Biotechnology, Anna University, Chennai.

With financial aid from government, funding agencies or industry sponsors, the larger aim is to develop a 'continuously-operable, in-house, self-sustainable 2G-ethanol bio-refinery' to meet the alternate fuel demand in the country, the researchers said.