

China Plants More Trees For Biomass Generation

China aims to expand its acreage of trees suitable for providing feed stocks for power plants and biodiesel producers by 16 times during the 2010-2020 period, according to a senior government official. The acreage will rise to 13.3 million hectares by 2020 from a planned 833,333 hectares in 2010, enough to generate 15 GW of electricity and produce over 6 million tonnes of biodiesel a year, says State Forestry Administration head Jia Zhibang. China had a total of 622 GW of installed generation capacity as of late 2006. China has been anxious to boost its use of alternative energy in recent years as its heavy reliance on coal to meet energy needs has caused serious environmental problems. The Chinese Government plans to reduce the percentage of coal consumption to 66.1 per cent by 2010 from 69.1 per cent in 2005.

[Source esaa news]