‘Stricter rules needed to eliminate plastic products’

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LACK of motivation and strict rules is what is delaying the reach of environmentally-friendly products to the end user, says eminent scientist Amit Goyal, director; RENEW (Research and Education in Energy, Environment and Water) at University at Buffalo, USA.

Goyal was in the town to present the inaugural lecture of the three-day conference, SCI-CON’16- International Conference on Advanced Materials at Amrita University.

“It is clear that science and engineering can be used to develop next-generation materials and devices for renewable energy applications for mitigating environmental impact and for positively impacting human health,” he asserted.

When asked about why hasn’t the green products that the scientists and environmentalists have been recommending for years have not yet reached the end users and plastics and non-biodegradable materials still rule, Goyal said, “It is because companies are more concerned about profit and are not motivated to change that. Also there is no rule or tax imposed on them by the government. For example, a mobile phone cost must be made to include the recycling charges, non-biodegradable charges, apart from the making charges.”

According to the organisers, the conference is to provide a platform for the researchers to present their papers and also hear from eminent scientists how to develop their findings into products. Many innovative ideas promoted sustainable development by introducing low cost instruments that matches the performance of the high end ones.

Amitava Das, Sr. Principal Scientist at Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute at Bhavnagar in Gujarat, who is one of the speakers, has developed a kit that can help detect the functioning of the organs like kidney and liver based on biochemical reactions.

“After kidney transplant, the return of normal functioning of the organ can be deducted by using a reagent which will react with certain enzymes in the blood to provide the levels of enzymes,” said Das. His work, Reagent for Detection & Quantification of Bio-markers, has been granted funds by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and is being implemented by the Department of Biotechnology of the Ministry of Science & Technology.