

India, Brazil begin talks to resolve sugar dispute at WTO

New Delhi: India and Brazil have started talks to mutually resolve a sugar-related trade dispute at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

As part of the solution, Brazil may share ethanol production technology with New Delhi, an official said. Brazil, who is the largest producer of sugarcane and ethanol in the world, is also a leader in the technology used for ethanol production.

“A few rounds of talks have been held as part of our efforts to resolve the dispute. Brazil is saying that they will share with us technology for ethanol (production). It is a positive thing,” an official said.

Ethanol is used to blend with oil to power vehicles. The use of ethanol — extracted from sugarcane, broken rice and other agricultural produce — will help India in cutting its reliance on overseas shipments for meeting its oil needs, which currently stand at 85 percent of imports. It also cuts carbon emissions, and there is a target of 20 percent ethanol blended petrol by 2025.

India would also have to offer something as part of the mutually agreed solution to resolve the dispute at the Geneva-based multi-lateral body. Brazil is the largest producer and exporter of sugar in the world. India is the world's second-largest producer. AGENCIES