



ISBN: 978-93-48542-68-7

e-ISBN: 978-93-48542-70-0

Pages: 180

2026

 **Printed Copy**

Paperback ₹ 795/-

CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN AGRICULTURE

Waste to Wealth

This book, on ***Circular Economy in Agriculture – Waste to Wealth***, by M.V.Ashok explains how Circular economy is important for Indian agriculture to improve Resource Efficiency, reduce Waste and also achieve Environmental Sustainability. Beginning with quantum of agricultural waste created by farmers in India with state-wise and crop wise data from accredited sources, and about the huge quantity of temple waste of offerings, their nature of current utilization. The book makes a timely and significant contribution by addressing agricultural waste—crop residues, livestock manure, temple offerings, and food processing by-products—as an untapped reservoir of value. By moving beyond “waste management” to “waste valorization,” the book presents a strategy that strengthens rural economies while advancing sustainability. The author has lucidly explained, in a sequential manner, what constitutes rural waste and how it can be successfully converted into wealth. and the efforts of Government of India to come out with a National Policy for Management of Crop Residues (NPMCR). To drive home the point live case studies have been or compiled by the author to demonstrate how simple activities taken up by various agri-startups, embrace circularity. These also show how, by adopting circular economy principles, India can strengthen its food security, reduce its environmental footprint, and create a more resilient and sustainable agricultural sector that is more sustainable, efficient, and resilient benefitting both the environment and the livelihoods of its farmers. The richness of the book lies in its case studies: from biogas and biofertilizers to temple waste recycling, eco-friendly cutlery, and agri-waste-based fabrics. Startups and community innovations are showcased throughout, making the subject both practical and inspirational. By situating these innovations alongside India's national policy context, the book bridges theory, practice, and governance. The book is all about the huge potential for transforming agricultural waste like crop residues, animal manure, and food processing byproducts into valuable resources such as compost, biogas, and biofertilizers, various utility articles and explaining in detail with simple and live case studies would not only open up another opportunity for increasing incomes of the farmers but in addition immensely contribute to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from such wastes.

M. V. Ashok

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