

NEWSLETTER

APRIL TO JUNE 2025



MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MNRE

The launch of the 2024 State of the Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE) Sector Report was a timely reminder of India’s cultural and historical affinity for sustainability—and how that legacy continue to shape our renewable energy journey. CLEAN’s work in convening stakeholders and providing evidence-based insights is commendable, and the report highlights both the progress made and the path ahead.



India’s proactive stance on clean energy—embodied in ambitious goals like 500 GW by 2030—is creating the right momentum. But it is Decentralised Renewable Energy that carries the potential to transform lives where it matters most: in our rural, remote, and underserved regions. DRE is not just about powering homes; it’s about powering livelihoods, aspirations, and community resilience.

For the sector to truly scale, however, we must look beyond technology and finance. A stronger ecosystem is needed—one that actively includes local voices, builds robust last-mile supply chains, and encourages field-level feedback to inform adaptive policy and program design.

CLEAN is well-positioned to lead this convergence of perspectives—from grassroots to policy corridors—and to ensure that DRE remains central in India’s climate and development strategies. I hope to see the network continue to foster collaboration, drive innovation, and act as a critical enabler of sustainable energy access across the country.

Shri J.K. Jethani,
Sr. Director/Scientist-F
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

NEW MEMBERS



CLEAN’S NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS



CLEAN’S NEW TEAM MEMBERS



DRE NEWS COMPILATION

- Santosh Kumar Sarangi appointed as the New MNRE Secretary
- MNRE launched Startup Grand Challenge to promote innovation in decentralized clean energy solutions across sectors.
- Gol launches Rs 2.3 Cr Scheme For Startups Aiming To Increasing Rooftop Solar Installations
- Maharashtra is leading a rural energy revolution by shifting 100% agricultural power to solar under the visionary MSKVY 2.0 initiative.



Reflections from CLEAN's State of DRE Sector Report Launch



As India advances toward a low-carbon future, Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE) is emerging as a key climate solution—driving decarbonization, resilience, energy access, and inclusive development. At the launch of CLEAN's State of the Sector (SOS) Report 2024 in New Delhi, sector leaders stressed the need to integrate DRE into mainstream climate action.

Dr. Priyadarshini highlighted the shift from fossil fuels to renewables and emphasized how DRE—especially through Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE)—can foster equitable growth and green livelihoods. However, she noted that DRE still receives far less climate finance than utility-scale renewables. Mr. Amit Kumar called for a national knowledge repository to document and share successful DRE practices, while Mr. Nitin Akhade emphasized India's potential to lead the Global South in DRE-driven growth. Ms. Rekha Krishnan shared findings from 14 State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC), revealing that while technologies like solar pumps, biogas, and cold storage have vast potential in agriculture, health, and disaster relief, they remain underutilized due to institutional silos and limited convergence. She recommended a targeted funding window and stronger inter-departmental coordination. Dr. Gurudas Nulkar and Mr. Mahesh Deodhar showcased smart microgrids in Pune integrating solar, biogas, and waste-to-energy solutions—demonstrating scalable, local decarbonization. On clean cooking, Ms. Vishakha Chandhere highlighted the need to bridge urban-rural divides and broaden definitions beyond LPG. Mr. Rohan Chawla flagged India's \$10.1 trillion climate finance need by 2070, urging greater investment in DRE through microfinance, standardization, and better reporting.

The call to action- center DRE in climate strategies for a just, resilient future.

WORKSHOPS

Action Learning Workshop – PURE and Mini-Grids for Development - Jharkhand

WRI and CLEAN conducted a workshop in Jharkhand which brought together grassroots organizations to share experiences in millet processing, micro-enterprises, and mini-grids, aiming to scale sustainable energy solutions within the state and beyond.



Nagaland Food & Feed LINK (N2FL)- Nagaland



At a state-level workshop in Nagaland, CLEAN engaged with CES, UNDP, IDAN, and people of Japan, to explore DRE integration into food and feed value chains, fostering sustainable livelihood opportunities through energy-powered local enterprises.

Energy Dialogue - Nagpur

CLEAN joined an insightful panel at CSIR-NEERI's Energy Dialogue in Nagpur, highlighting the critical role of biomass in driving inclusive, cleaner energy solutions across rural and underserved communities.



WEBINARS

Webinar on ClimFii by Upaya (April)



CLEAN conducted Webinar on ClimaFii Alliance, with the Upaya Social Ventures. ClimaFii Alliance is a collaborative initiative led by Shell Foundation in partnership with Accion, co-funded by UK aid through the UK's Transforming Energy Access platform. Ms. Rachna Chandrashekhara lead the session and offered a clear and comprehensive overview of the programme, as well as addressing most of the participants' queries.

Webinar on TAP-RISE by Development Alternatives (May)



CLEAN organised a webinar on TAP-RISE, which is a national platform designed to empower SEED-supported organisations by scaling innovative rural technologies and fostering social entrepreneurship. It was initiated by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and coordinated by Development Alternatives and Vigyan Ashram. Mr. Sudhir Sah and Ms. Ahana Srivastava lead the session.

Webinar on Carbon Financing for Livelihoods by FCF India (June)



Jasmeet Singh Bajaj shared FCF India's approach, focusing on generating high-quality carbon credits through agroforestry, soil carbon initiatives, and renewable energy projects. Key challenges like significant upfront costs, limited liquidity, and the need for reliable data and digital MRV systems were discussed, also touching upon opportunities for carbon credits in areas like food loss and waste management, and stressed the importance of risk assessment and regulatory compliance in determining credit pricing.

PODCASTS

Watt & Worth- Smita Ram, Rang De

From breaking down barriers like affordability and credit access to sharing inspiring real-life success stories, Smita Ram, co-founder of Rang De- sheds light on how financial inclusion can drive sustainable energy adoption. Tune in to learn how collaboration between microfinance, Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) innovators, and policymakers can spark real change at the last mile.



Blockchain, Batteries & Business - Sudhakar Babu Gariganti, Svabag Labs

This episode explored the 3B Model with Sudhakar Babu Gariganti of Svabag Labs— where Blockchain, Batteries, and Business converge to transform rural energy access into a livelihood opportunity. Inspired by Amul's cooperative strategy and powered by cutting-edge tech, Svabag's decentralized energy model is helping communities generate income, build trust, and take charge of their own power.



ONLINE ROUNDTABLE

Discussion: Opportunities and Challenges in Scaling Solar or RE based Cold Rooms in India



Organized by CLEAN the meeting provided valuable insights on the challenges in scaling solar cold storage in India faces like high costs, low farmer awareness, lack of customization, and technical issues and discussed solutions like in education, affordability, policy support, and stakeholder collaboration.

EVENTS

SAFDE 2025 - INDIA



Our CEO, Priyadarshini Karve, was part of two impactful sessions at SAFDE25 —

- ◆ a panel discussion led by WRI India on expanding DRE

in agri-food supply chains, and

- ◆ led a session on the evolving role of DRE industry associations which highlighted the importance of industry associations in shaping effective, people-centric policies.

CLEAN also launched the digital version of State of the DRE Sector 2024 report, highlighting DRE as a complete climate solution.

EAIF 2025- UGANDA



Our President, Mr. Nitin Akhade and Program Lead at CEEW, Mr. Shek Wase, had an engaging discussion with stakeholders from Africa, Latin America, and Europe at the

Energy Access Investment Forum 2025 in Kampala. The session focused on context-specific challenges and opportunities to scale Productive Use of Energy (PUE) solutions.

This first-ever India-led delegation, jointly convened by ARE, CEEW, and CLEAN, enabled rich knowledge-sharing and advanced South-South collaboration.

MEMBER'S SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Svabag Labs on the Launch of SvachSakthi!



Kudos to the Svabag Labs team for launching SvachSakthi—a pioneering solar off-grid energy cooperative in Aitipamula, Nalgonda. With support from the Komatireddy Prateek Foundation and District Collector Ila Tripathi, 50 rooftop 1kW solar systems were installed across SHG households. The project now powers a clean energy swap network with IoT monitoring and automated payouts. This marks a bold step in community-owned DRE and grassroots energy transition. We applaud this visionary initiative and look forward to its continued impact and innovation—including upcoming integration with Solana blockchain!

Congratulations to Mlinda for Recognition at CASCA 2025!



Mlinda Charitable Trust has won the Green Manufacturing Award at the CASCA 2025 by The CSR Universe! This recognition celebrates their impactful clean energy model that integrates solar mini-grids with livelihood development across rural India. With over 13,900 households and 1,281 enterprises empowered—many led by women and tribal entrepreneurs—Mlinda's approach showcases scalable, inclusive, and climate-resilient rural transformation. Kudos to the Mlinda team for this well-deserved recognition and for setting a strong example in sustainable development!

REGIONAL MEET

SOUTH- BANGALORE

CLEAN had an inspiring meeting with CLEAN members from the Bangalore circle to discuss the evolving role of CLEAN in the sector.. It explored ideas such as enabling market opportunities for MSMEs, improving installation quality, fostering engagement across the Global South, organizing buyer-seller meets, and hosting more networking events.

