National Workshop on Integrating Renewable Energy for Promotion of Rural Livelihoods

Workshop Summary

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) with support from IGEN Access-II program of GIZ India jointly organized a National Workshop on Integrating Renewable Energy for Promotion of Rural Livelihoods on 18 December 2019 (Wednesday) at New Delhi. The objectives of the workshop are to exchange knowledge and experience on the following:

1. To share field interventions, models focusing on integration of Renewable Energy (RE) in livelihood.
2. To understand and discuss experiences of State Rural Livelihood Programs in integrating renewable energy for livelihood promotion.

This workshop was organized in the context of emerging policy interventions at global and Indian level to replace and augment renewable energy sources; integration of RE technologies in promotion of rural livelihoods with the aim to increase productivity and enhance household incomes both directly and indirectly.

This document summarizes the key outcomes emerged during the workshop. The next section presents the deliberations happened during the moderated discussion. The Annexures 1 – 2 provide the workshop agenda and background note of the workshop.

The key outcomes/reflections from the workshop deliberations were –

- Important to create a roadmap for institutionalising energy as a catalyst for development and livelihood promotion in partnership with different ministry, NRLM and SRLMs.
  - Technical Advisory Group comprising of MNRE, NRLM, GIZ, CLEAN can be formed mainly to organise similar type of workshop/discussion platforms where all above stakeholders including DRE technology providers participate and share their learnings at regular intervals.
- Mapping of energy efficient technologies available for livelihood applications (from across geographies) is critical and important to replicate the learnings with help of MNRE and SRLMs.
  - Develop a compendium of applications and continuously update it with relevant schemes of different ministries. It should be taken up by GIZ and networking organisation like CLEAN.
• Awareness creation about the energy efficient livelihood products for community members (end users), financial institutions and operational staff of SRLMs is important.
  o MNRE, NRLM, GIZ should discuss and work out plan to organise exposure visits to successful pilots for the SRLMs.
• Demand assessment of energy efficient technologies at ground level will help SRLMs to promote and scale up the technology on their own or with help of identified technical partners. GIZ can take up the assessment mapping for at least 1-2 States along with other bilateral and network organisations like CLEAN.
  o In consultation with MNRE, NRLMs GIZ will identify successful RE based technologies (addressing different needs like lighting, cooking, livelihood promotion) with aim to develop a blueprint / holistic model for replication at district and state level.
• Capacity building of local entrepreneurs to install, operate and maintain the energy efficient system will help in promotion of RE technologies and long-term sustainability of the system.

Discussion Minutes

Session 1: Inaugural Session

Mr. Jeevan Kumar Jethani, Director, MNRE welcomed the participants and indicated that the primary objective of the workshop is to provide a platform for practitioners and SRLMS to share their experience in integrating RE based technologies in livelihood promotion, and to understand the possibilities of integration of above in their own geographies. MNRE is critically looking at the ways to standardise the existing technology, quality of the solution proposed and cost of RE solutions offered for the livelihood promotion and ways to reduce the price for end users. Further the existing opportunities for integrating energy solution in various sector including agriculture, dairy, fisheries and value addition was emphasized.

The workshop was chaired by the special secretary Mr. Praveen Kumar and attended by different field-based institutions, SRLMs and representatives from MNRE and GIZ. In total about 27 participants attended the workshop.
Session 2: Presentation

Representatives from different field-based institutions and SRLMs shared their experience of successful integration of RE based technologies in livelihood promotion. It was followed by discussion mainly to understand the technology in detail, its efficiency and process adopted by the organisation.

Following is the list of organisations’ who presented and shared their experience.

- Selco Foundation
- Harsha Trust – Technical support organisation of Odisha Rural Livelihood Mission
- Dharmalife
- Mlinda Foundation
- Clean Network
- West Bengal livelihood mission
- VASFA
- Jeevika (BRLPS)
- UPSRLM

During the ensuing discussion moderated by Mr. Hari, following points emerged.

- Setting the context Mr. Hari noted that Integrating RE is not just powering livelihood, but understanding the usage, the design and improving the overall efficiency to make the existing solution both cost effective as well as meeting the needs of the consumer.
- The cost of the solutions offered by different experiences discussed during presentation are usually high and in general supported by grant/ subsidy. For scaling up the technology ‘finance’ will become a crucial factor and support from MNRE is important. Replying to above discussion Mr Jethani highlighted the need for coordinated effort and identifying existing schemes and programs will be useful. Also, he noted RESCO kind of model will be helpful.
- Mr Roshan Selco foundation by sharing the organisation experiences from across geography highlighted the importance of integrating energy with livelihood promotion and how it addresses the overall SDG 7 and SDG 8. Role of MNRE, NRLM and technical agencies in creating a sustainable energy ecosystem was highlighted for discussion of the participants. Capacity of Selco foundation in terms of providing advisory support on technical and financial specifications of energy + livelihood solutions and procurement guidelines was shared with the SRLMs.
- Dharmalife ‘Tejasvini’ initiative focusses on creating women entrepreneurs in the villages as change leaders who are driving progress across causes from within the community. Mr Gaurav noted that the women earn the respect of their communities through the work that they do and become beacons of change. He highlighted the opportunity to scaleup the DL entrepreneur model
across SRLM network and the combined support required from MNRE and NRLM.

- Mr. Sharma (VASFA) highlighted the challenge faced by state programs - promoting RE technologies. Poor performance mainly due to lack of coordination between implementing stakeholders and absence of proper after sales services affecting the sustainability of the technologies was listed out. He emphasised the importance of proper guidelines and systematic implementation with support of central, state and technical agencies for proper field implementation.

- Important to study the Odisha model where Harsha Trust has been able to get ORLM to scale up the interventions. Strategy approach and processes followed by the technical partner and ORLM will be learning point for others to follow/ adapt with other SRLMs. Successful interventions focussing on solarisation of poultry unit, vaccine refrigerator and in other areas including cold storage and micro pumps were shared in detail.

- Milinda ‘Hamara Grid’ model presented how different livelihood activities are supported by the solar mini grid in the Gumla district, Jharkhand and the support received from MNRE. Productive load profile of the mini grid includes about 65 shops, 65 poultry units, 1 electric vehicle, 626 irrigation pumps and 24 wheat milling machines.

- Mr Manoj shared GIZ experience of supporting the pilot clean cooking solutions for households in Sundarbans. He shared the learnings from the pilot, working with the “Anandadhara team” (west Bengal state rural livelihood mission) and presented the opportunity to scaleup the project in other districts of West Bengal.

- Mr Nitin, CLEAN shared the various commercial RE prototypes available in the market for livelihood promotion including solar dryer, milking machine, agriculture pumps, spinning machine, rice huller etc. He highlighted the importance of creating an facilitative environment, awareness creation and capacity building of members and stakeholders on DRE interventions.

- Bihar and Uttar Pradesh SRLM – Put forth support from stakeholders to help build business plan for the S-mart didi’s, aggregating their funding requirements and helping them raise capital through banks/MFIs. Discussion noted that with proper handholding and market support they can become independent of the SRLMs and can become the channels for other livelihood solutions as well.

- Mr Ramesh (Bharat Rural Livelihood Promotion Foundation) noted that proper sensitization and capacity building of the youth can play a major role in managing the RE technologies and provide new livelihood opportunity at village level.
• Representatives from Jeevika Bihar welcomed interested stakeholders to participate in the forthcoming workshop planned to be organised in Patna to share their views and discuss the possible association in energy livelihood nexus.

Possible area of Productive application of renewable energy driven solutions in addition to lighting, cooking includes:

1. Haryana: Canteen run by women SHGs; Masala making and Foot ware making.
2. Bihar: Develop entrepreneurs who will sell and service RE solution to local community; in apparel; value addition and in government hospital.
3. Odisha: Poultry; Dairy and Mid-Day meal preparation

To establish the convergence of schemes from different ministries, it was highlighted that Clean should prepare a compendium of different RE based solutions available to cater livelihood opportunities with details including cost, efficiency and technical specifications.

**Concluding Remarks**

During the concluding discussion, Mr. Jethani, MNRE thanked the participants for the meaningful discussion. He noted that a coordinated effort is required to scale up the experiences learned. He asserted that focus should be on quality of solution, standardisation and proper R&D and importantly by utilising different existing schemes identify ways to reduce the cost of the solution proposed. When reliable and efficient solution is available the end user will be ready to pay the investment cost on his own. Important that GIZ and others should take initiative to create awareness about the technology at various levels.

He indicated that similar type of workshops event will be organised with support of GIZ, NRLM in the coming months (March / April) which will help different stakeholders to highlight their experience and learn from others.

Mr Yeswanth, GIZ informed the gathering that the forthcoming India Energy for All Summit in February 2020 will bring in a greater number of SRLMs and practitioners to discuss the potential opportunity of integrating RE technologies in promotion of livelihood.
**Annexure 1 – Workshop Agenda**

**Date:** 18th December 2019 (Wednesday)

**Venue:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) Conference Hall, New Delhi

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>09.45 - 10.00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00-10.15</td>
<td>Welcome and Introduction</td>
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<td>Inaugural Address - Setting the context</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.15-11.55</td>
<td>Sharing Field Experience (short presentation and discussion)</td>
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<td><strong>SELCO Foundation:</strong> Integration of RE in Livelihoods</td>
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<td><strong>Vaishali Area Small Farmers Association (VASFA)</strong> – Using solar water</td>
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<td>pump for irrigation</td>
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<td><strong>Mlinda Foundation</strong> – Engaging local community through RE interventions</td>
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<td><strong>Dharmalife</strong> – Capacitation; sustainability of Village entrepreneurs</td>
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<td><strong>CLEAN</strong> – Documenting experiences of integration of RE in India</td>
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<td>11.55-01.15</td>
<td>State Rural Livelihood Experiences (short presentation and discussion)</td>
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<td><strong>Bihar State Rural Livelihood Mission</strong></td>
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<td><strong>West Bengal State Rural Livelihood Mission</strong></td>
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<td>01.15 -01.45</td>
<td>Way forward, Opportunity and Challenges – Moderated Discussion</td>
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<td>Vote of <strong>Thanks by MNRE</strong></td>
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<td>01.45 Onwards</td>
<td>Networking Lunch</td>
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Annexure 2 – Background Note

Integration of renewable energy (RE) in rural livelihoods can play an important role to increase productivity and enhance incomes both directly and indirectly. Globally, replacing and augmenting renewable energy sources\(^1\) is emerging as an important policy intervention.

With support from Government programs, bilateral agencies and private institutions various initiatives have been designed and implemented in different regions of India to understand role of integration of renewable energy technologies in promoting livelihoods. Many of these are region specific and have huge potential for scaling up. In above context a platform to bring together different stakeholders who are involved in renewable energy integration in promoting rural livelihoods becomes important.

The technology solutions piloted and tested in promoting livelihood exist with different government departments and field partner agency. State level experience across India highlight that with appropriate forward backward linkage and suitable financing the renewable energy (RE) technologies can complement and add value to rural livelihood promotion. It is important that it should reach all different stakeholders involved including the community at ground level to learn, replicate and scaleup. Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) promoted as part of the State Rural Livelihood Missions in promoting livelihoods can play an important role in it. To add,

Main objective of the national workshop is

- To share field interventions, models focussing on integration of RE in livelihood
- To understand and discuss experiences of State Rural Livelihood projects in integrating RE for livelihood promotion.

The workshop will include participation of representatives from National and State Rural Livelihood Mission, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, donor agencies, field partner organisations, research institutes to share their experience and learnings.

Moving forward the workshop will help identify opportunities, coordinate with different stakeholders in promoting new livelihoods and synergise their efforts.

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\(^1\) For instance, in the production process (pumping water / irrigation); post-harvest stage (heating / cooling) and in processing (drying, grading)