



Workshop on Mini-Grid Development for Livelihood Generation Opportunities

3rd January, 2014, Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Electricity access has been recognized as an important factor towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Recognizing the importance of electricity access as an enabler of economic growth, the Government of India, over the years, has launched several schemes and programmes to build rural electricity infrastructure for village and household electrification. While these programmes have been successful in extending the electricity grid infrastructure to around 95% of Indian villages, currently only two-thirds of the households in the country have actual electricity connections. Further, these programme's progress mostly focuses on physical connections, village coverage and financial achievements. There has been relatively lesser focus on the outcomes from household's electricity demand perspective and their contribution to the local rural economy.

On the other hand, renewable energy systems emerge as possible solutions to provide electricity access in rural areas and cater to the needs of the local people. While both mini-grids and off-grid/standalone systems have been implemented in remote and geographically disadvantaged areas, their sustainability has always been challenging because of various technical, institutional and financial challenges.

Linking renewable energy based mini-grid systems to local livelihood generation is a way of enhancing the viability of such systems, which not only provides the necessary electricity access but also has the potential to enhance local revenue generation options ensuring a long-term demand for the electricity produced. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative has thus identified mini-grid solutions as one of the most promising options of improving access to electricity to households as well as for productive applications in rural areas.

Workshop aims

This workshop, scheduled on January 3, 2014, is an initiative of the OASYS South Asia (Off-grid Access System in South Asia) Project and aims to bring together experts and stakeholders to share successful models of providing electricity access and discuss issues and challenges of providing electricity access at affordable prices for livelihood development.

The OASYS South Asia project is an ongoing interdisciplinary research project, on off-grid delivery options titled "Decentralized off-grid electricity generation in developing countries: Business models for off-grid electricity supply", lasting from October 2009 to September 2014. The De Montfort University, UK is leading the project with TERI, Edinburgh Napier University, TERI University and The University of Manchester as consortium partners. The project aims to find appropriate local solutions, which are techno-economically viable, institutionally feasible, socio- politically acceptable and environmentally sound, for sustainable electricity supply to off-grid areas. For detail on the OASYS project, please visit <<http://www.oasysouthasia.dmu.ac.in>>.

Workshop Objective

To showcase different business models of providing electricity access and collectively discuss the challenges and solutions for effective linkages of electricity access and livelihood opportunities in the rural areas.

Workshop on Mini-Grid Development for Livelihood Generation Opportunities

January 3, 2014

Xavier Institute of Management, Jaydev Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Tentative Programme Schedule

09.30 – 10.00	Registration of participants
10.00 – 10.05	Welcome address: Mr. Amit Kumar, Director, TERI
10.05 – 10.20	The OASYS Project – Research Experiences and Key Lessons <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Subhes Bhattacharyya, Principal Investigator, OASYS South Asia Project, De Montfort University, UK
10.20 – 10.40	Inaugural Address <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shri P K Jena, Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Odisha (<i>invited</i>) Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr B C Jena, Chairman, Central Electricity Supply Utility of Orissa, Bhubaneswar (Confirmed)
10.40 – 11.00	<i>Tea/coffee Break</i>
11.00 – 13.00	Experiences & Lessons from Green Mini-grids (Chair: Dr. Subhes Bhattacharyya) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Col Vijay Bhaskar, Country Director, Mlinda Foundation2. Mr Nikhil Jaisinghani, Founder, Mera Gao Power3. Mr K Rahul Sharma, Research Associate, TERI4. Mr Manik M Jolly, Founder & CEO, Grassroots and Rural Innovative Development <p>(15 minutes presentation each#, followed by discussion)</p>
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 – 15.30	Breakaway Working Group discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energizing livelihoods: Challenges and opportunities (led Dr Arabinda Mishra, TERI University)• Institutional & operational challenges in implementation of decentralized electricity solutions (led Mr. Debajit Palit, TERI)
15.30 – 15.50	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
15.50 – 16.10	Presentation by Group Coordinator(s) of Breakaway Group Discussion
16.10 – 17.20	Panel Discussion: Scaling up green mini-grid projects in India Moderator: Mr Amit Kumar*, Director, TERI Special Address : Mr B K Mishra, Member, Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (<i>Confirmed</i>) Panelists: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mr. Ashok Chaudhuary Dy Director, OREDA2. Dr. Subhes Bhattacharyya, De Montfort University3. Mr. Chris Neidl, Arc Finance4. Mr Prabhjot Sodhi, Country Programme Manager, UNDP-SGP
17.20 – 17.30	Concluding Remarks – Dr. Subhes Bhattacharyya, Principal Investigator, OASYS South Asia Project, De Montfort University, UK