



TERI COMMITTED TO FINDING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS ENERGY SECURITY FOR RURAL INDIA: DR. R.K.PACHAURI

Village Tanda, Jagdishpur and Lucknow (U.P): September 4th, 2013: Baroness Verma, Member of the House of Lords and Junior Minister, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Govt. of the U.K and Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) today visited Village Tanda of Jagdishpur block- a TERI intervention site. They inaugurated a solar micro-grid connection (SMG) for provision of household lighting and forced draft improved biomass cookstoves for 20 households.

Stressing on the need to provide clean energy to rural households, **Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Director General, TERI** said *“Ever since its inception TERI has been deeply concerned with solving the massive problem of lack of access to modern forms of energy that a large part of humanity suffers from across the globe. The problem in India is particularly acute with almost 400 million people without access to electricity and almost twice this number using biomass, often of inferior quality, for cooking on highly inefficient and polluting cookstoves. TERI's efforts have concentrated over the years on finding technological and institutional solutions to this complex set of challenges. The project at Jagdishpur is representative of the solutions TERI has developed and implemented at the grassroots level across the length and breadth of India and in other parts of the world. In these efforts TERI has been fortunate to receive support from various organisations, including the UK Department of International Development.”*

Baroness and Dr. Pachauri were visiting the village as part of the Department of International Development (DFID) and TERI's 'Clean Energy Access Partnership' initiatives. The partnership revolves around the entire value chain of clean energy delivery for rural households. The key features include: research and customization of new products/standards; piloting new business models involving public private partnerships; close networking with financial institutions and capacity building of stakeholders. It has contributed to the development of new cookstove designs, innovative lighting products/systems (solar micro grid, Li-ion based LED lanterns) and integration of lighting and cooking through the Integrated Domestic Energy System (IDES).

During the visit, the two dignitaries lit a forced draft mud stove in a SMG connected house, and spoke to the women groups about their experiences.

Baroness Verma, Member of the House of Lords & Junior Minister, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Govt. of U.K said *“Cooking on inefficient and polluting cook stoves causes severe health problems for millions of women in India. Collecting fuel puts women and children at risk and limits education opportunities. India and the UK are working together on an innovative project to provide improved cookstoves and economic opportunities to thousands of women”.*

In 2008, TERI initiated its widely acclaimed *Lighting a Billion Lives* (LaBL) campaign. This has garnered strong support worldwide, and has been instrumental in illuminating nearly 1.3 million lives across rural India. Under the *Lighting a Billion Lives* initiative, close to 100,000 solar lanterns are already in use benefiting nearly 1.3 million lives across India; a network of energy enterprises is set up across 16 states in India and 900 'green jobs' have been created through rural entrepreneurship. These 75 energy enterprises have indirectly catalyzed the solar market in rural areas to illuminate an additional 1.7 million lives.

Uttar Pradesh is one of the key states for both, the lighting and cooking initiatives of TERI. Under *Lighting a Billion Lives*, close to 400 villages have been covered in the state through direct interventions touching more than 330,000 lives. Similarly, the initiative on cookstoves has reached out to close to 2131 households in U.P.

The initiatives under this partnership focus on women and children who are primarily impacted by indoor air pollution from traditional cookstoves and kerosene based lamps for lighting. The effort is not only to provide direct benefit of clean energy technologies to women but also bring them into the mainstream of the energy enterprise value chain. Hence, over 50% Village Level Entrepreneurs are women and women groups are being encouraged/supported to locally assemble, construct and sell clean energy technologies/products. The Improved Cookstoves Program (ICP) caters to the basic cooking needs of rural communities and has covered close to 4126 households in different regions of India.

The adoption of improved cookstoves (ICS) envisages the institutionalization of a value based supply chain comprising manufacturers, distributors and last-mile agents – Energy Entrepreneurs. In the long run, TERI aims to facilitate the creation of a new robust supply chain at last mile locations and strengthen the existing supply chain to ensure usage and adoption. TERI's activities aim to help improve awareness levels among villagers, improve reliability (TERI's forced draft ICS is one of the models approved by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy) and facilitate financial linkages. TERI also provides business and technical skills to facilitate the institutionalization of independent Energy Enterprises (EE) to enable direct retail sales of clean energy based lighting and cooking devices, manage spares' banks and provide after-sales service at last mile locations.

The benefits of the ICS program include: High reduction in toxic emissions during cooking in rural households; reduction in consumption of cooking fuel; reduction in cooking time; reduction in direct exposure of women and accompanying children to toxic emissions.

Marking the culmination of the site visit, Dr R.K. Pachauri and Baroness Verma also addressed members of the media fraternity in Lucknow.

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