



Renewable Energy Sources for Remote Areas

Project Title

Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihoods

Budget

UNDP – USD 2.5 million; Federal Republic of Germany – USD1.13 million

Duration

January 2005 – June 2008

Partners

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy;
Confederation of Indian Industry; Social Work and Research Centre and Alternate Hydro Energy Centre

Project Location

Jharkhand, Uttarkhand, Rajasthan, and Sikkim

Challenges

In India around 95,000 villages have yet to be connected to electricity. Out of these, 18,000 villages may never be connected to the national grid due to their remoteness. For the people living in these communities, access to renewable energy sources is the only solution to meet their energy needs.

Response

This project has introduced renewable energy to communities in remote areas. Renewable energy sources such as hydro, biomass and solar energy not only improve the lives of these communities, but also provide much needed employment opportunities. Training of specialists in renewable energy on livelihood opportunities is part of the project. Building a network between research institutions will increase the use of renewable energy as a poverty reduction tool.

Impact

In 20 villages, biogas plants and solar lights have been installed and give villagers access to gas for cooking and solar electricity. Four hundred households in 15 villages in Jharkhand and Rajasthan have taken up livelihood activities (e.g. spices grinding, leaf plate making) powered by biomass energy.

Story

In Chora village in Jharkhand, children are now able to study after dark - thanks to solar powered lighting. The same technology is used to illuminate the village streets at night. With the help of a system that turns cow dung and other waste into gas, women are able to cook in a smoke-free environment. These technologies have also helped the community to expand their livelihood choices, which is the biggest contribution that renewable energy has made to this community.

"We use the electricity to make briquettes, which are sold to the nearby factory. This helps me a lot, as I don't have to go far for work. I can stay in the village to look after my fields and my family."

Rajesh, Chora village, Jharkhand

Contact detail: climatechange.in@undp.org