



Recovery of Coal Bed Methane

Project Title

Coal Bed Methane Recovery and Commercial Utilization

Budget

Global Environment Facility (GEF) – USD 9.2 million; Government of India – USD 4.5 million; UNDP – USD 1.2. million

Duration

September 1999 – December 2008

Partners

Ministry of Coal, Government of India

Project Location

Jharkand (Dhanbad)

Challenges

Methane is a greenhouse gas that is considered to be 21 times more harmful than carbon dioxide. Coal mining is estimated to account for about 10 per cent of all human-induced methane emissions. Methane is also dangerous for miners, as it can lead to explosions during underground mining.

Response

For the first time in India, coal bed methane is being recovered through this project. The project will help demonstrate that recovering methane during coal mining is commercially feasible and once captured, methane can be a clean fuel for a variety of end-uses (from generating electricity to being used as fuel for trucks).

Impact

The experiment of recovering methane will be replicated in some mining sites in the country. In Dhanbad, Jharkand, the capacity of the Central Institute for Mining and Fuel Research was increased by providing laboratory equipment and training for testing and measuring methane. Coal bed methane is now included as a subject in the Indian School of Mines in Dhanbad, which will assist in widespread replication in the country.



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