

low carbon development in Rural India

India's 60% population lives in rural areas.

With the rise of disposable income, energy consumption in these area is also rising. Government has taken several steps to ensure this to be a clean energy.

To achieve one of the most ambitious target of 175 GW renewable energy and 40% fuel to be non fossil, Indian villages are going to play a significant role. major initiatives in this regard are :-

- (i) solar energy - to achieve 100 GW solar energy, schemes like KUSUM and SRLSTI for agriculture solar pump and rooftop solar ~~pump~~ has been initiated.
→ RPI has also brought rooftop solar into RSL.
- (ii) Energy efficiency - to promote energy efficiency government has launched UJALA and UJALA 2.0 initiative to provide cheap LED bulbs. Atal Jyoti Yojna scheme is there for LED street lighting. 36 cr LED bulbs has been distributed till date.
- (iii) Biofuel - ~~some~~ National project for Biogas development was launched in 1980's. Recently National Biofuel Policy was launched to divert surplus agriculture

produce towards Biofuel production.

↳ Moshiyarpur in Punjab has achieved a great success in this regard.

(iv) Clean Energy - Ujyalg scheme to provide subsidised LPG connection to reduce household pollution. Under it BC LPG connection is to be provided.

Challenges

(i) Dependency - due to unempowered local bodies people depend on bureaucrats which increase red tapism and delay.

→ lack of domestic manufacturing has made the country importer of solar, battery and other equipment from China.

(ii) Awareness - There is consistent lack of awareness of most of the government schemes due to illiteracy and unaccessibility.

(iii) Biofuel policy will succeed when there will be forward linkage with farmers. Cow dung, rice husk, sugarcane waste etc need a linkage with industries.

(iv) Ujyalg scheme attracted initial traction but later downgraded due to rise in cost and poor quality LEDs

(1) Vijwala scheme provide only one time financial assistance. Later it has been found that poor people are unable to afford repilling.

Last year CAG reported that ~~there~~ is mis-
appropriation of benefit in Vijwala scheme.

Thus government need to develop a sustainable solution with poor monitoring and use of technology like DBT.