



Workshop Proceedings

Civil Society Organizations Consultation on “Engaging with the E+ SEFA and other Energy Access, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency International Initiatives”

**Maple Room, International Habitat Center, New Delhi, India
November 8, 2012**

Organized by WWF and Energy+

Background and Purpose of the Meeting

In late 2011, in Oslo, the UN Secretary-General and the Norwegian Prime Minister launched the “International Energy and Climate Initiative, Energy+.” Like the UN Secretary General’s Sustainable Energy for All (SEFA), Energy+ aim is to support transformational change in the energy sector of developing countries by investing in energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency toward the twin goals of universal access to sustainable energy and avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions.

During 2012 Energy + has been endorsed by some 50 partners including governments and NGOs and the Government of Norway has signed bilateral investment agreements with several developing countries (http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/campaigns/energy_plus.html?id=672635)

On November 6, representatives from the Government of Norway and E+ were in New Delhi conveying a consultation with India’s private sector, to hear businesses’ perspective on opportunities and barriers for expanding energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries.

Next day, WWF, with support from E+ organized this Civil Society Consultation as an opportunity for India’s CSOs to hear about the goals and initial activities of E+; and for E+ to hear the voices of Civil Society regarding what works and what doesn’t in energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The meeting agenda

After a WWF opening, Ambassador Ann Ollestad, currently special advisor to Energy+ and former Norwegian ambassador to India, presented E+ goals, approaches and current activities

Ambassador Ollestad was followed by several key note presentations, including:

- Mr. L Somasundaram, from IFMR (Institute for Financial Management and Research) that discussed financial issues in energy access;
- Dr Svati Bhogle from TIDE (Technology Informatics Design Endeavors) that discussed technology issues in energy access; and
- Dr Akanksha Chaurey from ITP Senergy discussed institutional and governance issues in energy access.

After the above presentations the floor was open to all participants and a lively dialogue ensued regarding key issues, experiences and possible roles for E+. The details of the discussion are summarized in the following pages.

Details of the discussion

Welcome Remarks

Dr. T S Panwar, WWF-India

Dr. Panwar, Director, Climate Change & Energy, WWF-India welcomed the participants to the consultation. Describing the context he talked about the urgent need to address issues of energy access in the developing world. He described the efforts of WWF to address these problems and briefly touched upon the initiatives undertaken by WWF-India regarding energy access and promotion of renewable energy. Welcoming Ambassador Ann Ollestad, the special advisor to Energy+, and Pablo Gutman of WWF-US, he talked about Ambassador Ollestad's contribution to the energy and climate issues and complimented WWF-US on the partnership with Energy+.

Background and Objectives of the Consultation:

Mr. Pablo Gutman, Senior Director Environment Economics, WWF-USA

Mr. Gutman mentioned that the 'International Energy and Climate Initiative, Energy+' has invited the participation not only of governments but also of business and NGOs. Hence, this type of consultations are critical to share with E+ the success stories, the learning and the lessons of India's CSOs regarding promoting energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Keynote address on Energy+:

Ms. Ann Ollestad, Special Advisor to Energy+ and Former Norwegian Ambassador to India

Ambassador Ollestad mentioned that the Norwegian Government has planned some very big projects in India. The "Public Private People Partnership" initiative, mainly financed by Norad and the Indian Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has already established solar energy projects in 30 villages and said that she had visited these villages with Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Gol and shared that the most interesting part was the interaction with the stakeholders.

She highlighted that the goal and objectives of the Energy+ initiative is to support transformational change to achieve universal access to sustainable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Energy+ intends to scale-up access to renewable energy sources and increased energy efficiency and test and pilot sectoral market mechanism including the future carbon markets. Moreover the E+ initiative would inform and be informed by the progress of the UNFCCC and the Green Climate Fund.

Talking about the design principles of Energy+, she mentioned that 'its country driven, sectoral approach' i.e. energy plus will collaborate only with countries that have developed a sectoral approach to work on renewable energy.

The second component of E+ is 'Public funding to leverage commercial investments, risk mitigation, capacity building. A third component is a 'phased introduction of payment by results' that require good indicators to measure progress in delivering energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency . Lastly, the initiative will take into account existing programs & institutions and social & environmental standards. Energy plus will work on the philosophy of payment for results. (See attached Ambassador Ollestad's power point presentation).



In Picture: Ms. Swati Bhogle, Ms. Akansha Chaurey, Ms. Ann Ollestad, Mr. Pablo Gutman, Mr. Somasundaram L

Key note thematic presentations

Mr. Somasundaram, from IFMR (Institute for Financial Management and Research) discussed financial issues in energy access

Mr. Somasundaram discussed energy access as a function of availability and affordability. Energy access thus, is in essence, a household's ability to obtain an energy service. The clean energy transition in this context becomes crucial. On the one hand Energy Access not just helps reduce energy poverty, but also addresses key issues such as climate change, improve health conditions, education and empower women. This creates a win-win situation in terms of realizing both development and environmental goals. The tools (off-grid, bio-mass, solar cooks stoves, energy efficient appliances) that are available for tackling this battle are continuously evolving and most of these technologies seem very promising. However, to ensure energy access in India, the most critical question India needs to answer is how to provide stimulus for scaling up of these technologies and making them more affordable? He said that in order to scale up energy access and address affordability concerns, it is important to create a holistic and sustainable model that considers all aspects of financing, technology, community interaction and current policy (See attached Mr. Somasundaram's power point presentation).

Dr Svati Bhogle from TIDE (Technology Informatics Design Endeavors) discussed technology issues in energy access

She shared her experiences on starting a community enterprise in south India. She emphasized electricity and energy are not the same and there is a need to look beyond electricity. Communities require energy access for improving quality of life, drudgery reduction, time saving and securing livelihoods.

She mentioned that Energy+ can make a big difference by supporting these crucial cross cutting initiatives, evolve and sustain a good communication strategy to break down resistances to energy use reform. Energy+ should implement and sustain a framework for multi stakeholder engagement – CSOs/ enterprises/ technology support, facilitation with government, provide a platform for constructive dialogue among all stake holders with policy makers and also address energy issues also beyond electricity (See attached Dr. Svati Bhogle’s power point presentation).

Dr Akanksha Chaurey from ITP Senergy discussed institutional and governance issues in energy access

Dr Akanksha Chaurey talked about her learning gathered mainly in the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) and IOREC (International Off Grid Renewable Energy Conference) conferences in Accra.

She said that we have been talking about the pilot demonstration from so many years. The transformation from pilot to large scale commissioned projects is not happening. Is it because of technology or lack of finances or institutional issues? It seems that technology is already there and we do not have to wait for it to be more commercialized and viable than it is today. Similarly financing is also available. She said that we have known champions such as Harish Hande & Dipal Barua, but what we probably need are champion institutions such as IDCOL (Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa Ltd.) which can deliver proven products and service at a large scale. In this regard, we need to focus on developing processes and mechanism that create and sustain champion institutions. It is important to invest in the whole energy framework (she called it the “ecosystem”) i.e. to develop strong regulatory frameworks, international cooperation, capacity building etc. that can provide conducive environment for institutions to grow.

She also spoke on the issue of governance. While local governments have their policies and programmes dealing with rural electrification, urban development, renewable energy, they do not have energy access as a part of the mainstream planning of these schemes. We need to create linkages of energy access with sectoral planning and we have to create capabilities within government department for designing and collaborating for impacts.

Open Discussion on (a) issues; (b) experiences; and (c) recommendations for E+

All participants, moderated by WWF India and WWF US, engaged in a discussion of (a) issues; (b) experiences; and (c) recommendations for E+. The following is a summary of that discussion

Mr. Ashwin Gambhir, Prayas

- (a) **Issues:** Access to energy need not be considered not only for lighting perspective. Grid expansion program is important with efficiency in appliances. Large renewable energy projects in India do not need social and environment clearance but they should.
- (c) **Recommendations for E+:** India is coming up with different type of efficient appliance programs, E+ initiative can look at super efficient appliance, leveraging financing and best practices. Part of funds in E+ should be earmarked for research.

Mr. R D Hanbar Deshmukh, ARTI (Appropriate Rural Technology Institute)

- (a) **Issues:** Importance of energy through use of biomass in rural India. 30% of population has problem of indoor air pollution and these families are a very important target for climate change enterprise models (i.e. government agencies and financing institutions)

Mr. Rajib Kumar Roul, AFPRO (Action for Food Production)

- (b) **Experiences:** Mr. Rajiv talked about the project their organisation implemented known as 'Deenbandhu Biogas Plant' and which started to function in 1986. He commented that the training of the masons is also important component for scaling up. He also talked about solar light project by Aga Khan Foundation in Mirzapur, Bihar where they first tried TERI model.
- (c) **Recommendations for E+** using Energy+ funds to scale up existing successful experiences like the ones he mentioned above.

Ms Lydia Powell, ORF (Observer Research Foundation)

- (a) **Issues:** She gave her views in the context of energy access and linked it to the goal of saving human life and thus saving the planet. She, sharing that energy access in India started with a social focus and not from a climate change perspective. She also stated various facts wherein she linked the impacts of providing access would benefit areas like agriculture production in rural India, female education, labor subsidies and biomass usage.

Mr. Jarnail Singh, TERI (The Energy and resource Institute)

- (a) **Issues:** He mentioned that all energy programs in India have room for conservation. Remarked that energy is part of underlying millennium development goals (MDGs) and on the importance of mainstreaming with a critical mass of human capital.

Mr. Howard Hugas, Embassy of Norway in India

- (b) **Experiences:** He shared his experience of working on rural energy in a 30 villages program in collaboration with MNRE, the critical issue there being the economic sustainability of the program. Mr. Hugas also suggested that all social initiatives should take into consideration important issues like willingness to pay and linkage between demand side management and the production side. He also mentioned his experience with off-grid energy in program in 4 states that would use a "reverse auction" approach where private developers compete for funds and payment dependent on results. Similarly, Energy+ would also use the concept of payment on a delivery basis. He also emphasized that contribution by CSOs would be important for both awareness and sensitization.

Mr. Prabhat Upadhyay, CPR (Center for Policy Research)

- (a) **Issues:** He wondered if in “payments for result” the “result” would be the infrastructure or the service. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the result should be service i.e. energy access. Also mentioned that we should focus not only on household level access but also in energy access for rural community and institutions.

Mr. Ronak Shah, Sewa Mandir

- (a) **Issues:** His comments centered on the need for scaling up. He focused on the need for standards or a regulatory body. Also in the need of promoting a “behavioral change”. Private sector is already making efforts to reach to the rural people, but they need to be monitored i.e. by a regulatory body to increase effectiveness.

Dr. Anurag Danda, WWF India

- (b) **Experiences:** His comment centered on his experience working on 2 pilot projects in the Sundarbans. He shared that people in this area appreciate the 2 pilot projects that were set up, and are very much willing to pay accrediting this to the differences its making in their daily life. WWF had collaborated with West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA), the nodal agency for renewable energy projects in the state and it has realized that for any renewable energy projects to be implemented successfully it has to be linked to the government and establish relevance to the community.

Prof V K Sharma, IGIDR

- (a) **Issues:** He mentioned that for renewable energy to be successful, it’s important to take the life cycle assessment into consideration that account for the overall GHG emission. It’s a very useful concept as companies nowadays are using the results of these assessments to make manufacturing, operating and supply chain decisions as well as considered important in the process of attaining renewable energy certificates or carbon credits.

Dr. T S Panwar, WWF India

- (a) **Issues:** He raised the concern that cumulative impacts of a number of small projects could be significant. Secondly, energy access programs should take into account cost related to administration, operation & maintenance, capacity building and training and all these should be built-into the program budget.

Mr. Pablo Gutman, WWF US

- (a) **Issues:** NGOs and CSOs are trying to find new entrepreneurial model that can be implemented at local level. One of the challenges will be to bring together experiences from different stakeholders and institutions on a knowledge sharing platform to communicate the experiences in design and implementation of these projects.
- (c) **Recommendations for E+:** to use some E+ resources to foster the search for new and innovative approaches to scale up energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries. In this search CSOs could act both as originators of new approaches and as reviewers or sound board for E+ activities.

Other Ideas Tabled in the Open Discussion

- While there are many models to promote energy access, it is the scaling up which is still a big challenge.
- There is a lack of institutional capacity to scale up energy access
- Energy+ should work on things beyond electricity which seems to take up much of the space on energy access
- In India energy access has a social dimension. Thus, energy access programs should target not only the scale up of energy infrastructural and business models, but also support behavioral changes
- A large grid expansion is taking place in India. Thus there is a need for working on super efficient appliances to reduce the electricity demand
- Energy+ and similar energy access programs should focus on keeping the models running rather than just making it available.
- A long term vision that envisages the life cycle of these projects with proper costing and capacity building is required.
- Energy+ should provide a platform for information exchange and learning for various stakeholders working on energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- The difference between capacity to pay and the willingness to pay may point to the fact that increasing energy access in rural areas may also require education and behavioral change

Closing remarks

Ms. Ann Ollestad

Ambassador Ollestad thanked the participants for the lively discussion and assured that this type of interaction will help E+ to be more effective having learned from the experiences of CSO

Mr. Abhishek Nath, WWF India

Mr. Nath formally thanked Energy+ and WWF US for support to arrange this stakeholder discussion with CSO and thanked the speakers for being able to join. He also thanked the participants for expressing their views on the subject of energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Next Steps

Mr. Pablo Gutman, WWF US

As part of the closing remarks Mr. Gutman proposed:

- (a) To circulate these “Workshop Proceedings” among the workshop participants and
- (b) to put up a web space for exchange information and opinions among CSO – WWF and E+ regarding
 - Issues, experiences and recommendations on how to scale up energy access; renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries
 - Role of CSOs on supporting the scale up energy access; renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries
 - Ways for CSOs to engage with E+ SEFA and other international programs that support the scale up of energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries

While this web space is being build you can contact TS Panwar and Abhishek Nath at WWF-India and Pablo Gutman and Daniel Riley at WWF-US (emails in the next page)

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS: Civil Society Organizations Consultation on “Engaging with the E+ SEFA and other Energy Access, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency International Initiatives”
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