

Establishment of Seed Communities on Green Growth and Energy Security (Grow-GET)

Background and Rationale

Inclusive policy making is recognised as an important and essential feature of any democratic state.

Indian civil society, like in most other developing societies, is characterised by relatively low levels of awareness, limited capacity and pro-activeness. This amounts to non-inclusiveness in policy making thus, leading to sub-optimal outcomes. Often, a few strong, well-organised pressure groups also tend to influence the policy making process in an asymmetric way, leading to policies serving only vested interests.

Given this background, CUTS International in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) aims at creating a neutral, non-partisan forum at a sub-national level, to begin with Rajasthan and West Bengal, where all stakeholders would be brought together with an aim to foster a dialogue resulting in action oriented agenda. The inclusive nature of the process would take into account concerns of all affected sections and thereby providing adequate legitimacy. To serve this purpose, Seed Communities (SC) will be established and the project will span over 4-5 years with a focus on green growth and energy security.

Objectives

- Create a platform for interaction and engagement between various stakeholders (policymakers, think tanks, subject experts, industry, media, academia, consumers, etc.)
- Create trust among stakeholders on policy issues concerning green growth and energy security
- Create a knowledge base on issues pertaining to energy security and green growth in the Indian context
- Gather evidence based policy recommendations
- Build ownership and consensus for these recommendations amongst all policy makers

Mechanism/Process to Be Followed

The SC would meet once in every three months to discuss the agenda and theme outlined for the meeting. It will take stock of the outcomes of the research work, advocacy, other such exercises and chart the course for research and activities to be undertaken before the next quarterly meeting. A continuous interaction and engagement with policymakers at state & central level and media will be undertaken for the purpose of advocacy on the issue.

The Secretariat for this purpose will be the CUTS Head-office in Jaipur, Rajasthan. CUTS International will undertake all the administrative, background and preparatory (arrangement, coordination, research related) work for meetings of SC and other activities. CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre will act as a Project Partner to implement activities in West Bengal.

Supported by



Expected Outputs

- Background paper on energy security and green growth, issues/problems, Government's policy and initiative in India
- Minutes of SC meetings
- Project Webpage
- Monthly bulletin – Energy Focus
- Op-ed in prominent dailies
- White Paper on energy security and green growth to be produced at the end of six months
- Comprehensive research report comprising policy recommendations on green growth and energy security at the end of each year

Expected Outcomes

- Policy solutions evolved in an inclusive manner
- Increased awareness about energy security and green growth amongst relevant stakeholders
- Increased awareness and understanding about the inclusive policy making processes through SC model among policymakers, NGOs/think tanks, common people

Activities

- Convene, organize and facilitate roundtables of relevant stakeholders to identify probable members for the SC

- Convene, organize and facilitate seminars, workshops and meetings of the SC (every quarter)
- Media awareness workshop – once a year
- Engagement with policymakers and media on regular basis
- Establish a virtual platform (web portal) to ensure regular exchange of ideas, issues, etc.
- Prepare the agenda, and draft discussion papers, document best practices, etc.
- Participate in external events

Monitoring and Evaluation

M&E will be integral to the functioning of the SC. The goal is to review progress at least annually, to constantly improve and to adjust the functioning of the SC in light of the findings.

Development Partner

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) is the oldest political foundation in Germany with a rich tradition in social democracy. It focuses on core ideas and values of social democracy i.e. freedom, justice and solidarity. **FES India** has had a long standing cooperation with think-tanks and research institutions. It has also substantiated the necessity for an exchange of social democratic ideas across borders, continents and cultures, especially in the age of globalization's continuing impact on Indian society and India's sustained rise to global importance.

