



**First SEED Community Meeting, 2016**  
Green Growth and Energy Transformation (Grow-GET)  
23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2016, New Delhi

**Report**

**1. Background and Overview**

CUTS International in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organised the 1<sup>st</sup> Seed Community Meeting (Expert Group Meeting) on Green Growth and Energy Transformation in Delhi on the 23<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 in New Delhi.

At the outset it must be stated that the Seed Community is envisaged as vehicle of transformative change. The Delhi Seed Community Meeting was organised with an aim to introduce the Seed Community Members with the Transformative Change Methodology, identify transformative ideas and vet them in detail so that a robust project proposal could be developed.

**2. Proceedings**

Marc Saxer, Resident Representative, FES introduced the Transformative Change Making (TCM) Methodology to the SEED Community members and moderated the vetting exercise in collaboration with CUTS. In brief TCM has been mentioned below:

**2.1 Transformative Change Methodology (TCM)**

The TCM methodology has emanated from empirical research and is based on the recognition of the following facts:

- Change does not happen automatically with time
- Change is not an outcome of technological advancements
- Change is not an outcome of facts and figures alone
- Change cannot be brought only by government policies
- Change does not happen if issues and concerns are not framed adequately

Change requires a well calibrated strategy that would broadly entail the following key elements:

- Coalition of different stake holders
- A vision that is defined in a neutral future where immediate interests do not collide
- A paradigm shift in perception where the expectations are redefined

Guided by the above points, TCM involves identification of ideas that can be developed into catalytic projects, identification of ingredients for those projects and identification of key allies, amongst others.

Here it is pertinent to mention that Catalytic Project would essentially entail the following:

- It should be capable of scaling up
- It should be transformative i.e. it should be able to unleash structural game changers. In other words a catalytic project should be able to attract other significant actors to also drive it.
- It should be exemplified as a change narrative
- It should become a nucleus for social coalition
- It should create a platform for discourse alliance

Identification of Ingredients would entail the following:

For each and every catalytic project, the associated ingredients needed to make a project successful (from its inception to maintenance) are to be identified. In other words, this would require identifying the challenges that need to be overcome to make a project successful

Identification of Allies would essentially entail the following:

Corresponding to each of the ingredients, key allies are mapped. Here it must be noted that allies can be of three types namely natural allies i.e. those who are already convinced or the 'champions', transactional allies i.e. those who need incentives to come on board and transformative allies i.e. those whose interests do not align naturally and would be difficult to be co-opted. They can also be referred to as 'spoilors'.

## **2.2 Drawing Strategic Conclusions**

After identifying the allies and assessing the nature of alliances, the strategic conclusions need to be drawn, whether an alliance around the project is strong enough to make it a workable project or not. If the project has significantly higher number of transformative allies then there appears a greater difficulty in implementing such a project. Further once the implementable projects have been identified, the strategy to co-opt each of the allies needs to be thought of.

## **3. Identification of catalytic projects**

The Seed Community identified the following project ideas:

- Rooftop Solar Plants
- Biomass gasification for cooking, lighting
- Organic farming through increased animal husbandry which can pave way for more biomass generation)
- Decentralised generation through micro-grids / mini grids
- LED street lighting
- Smart Villages/ Model villages Project
- Biogas for commercial use
- Decentralised (manual) pelletisation as clean cooking solutions

- Waste to energy
- Cross-functional projects like sanitation, drinking water etc
- Green Tourism
- Sustainable habitats
- Grid connectivity for facilitation of electric transport vehicles/ cycles
- Household rooftop organic farming
- E-rickshaws
- Net Zero Street lighting system
- using renewables to facilitate education etc
- Utility scale storage
- Innovative financing
- Solarising sewing machines
- Smart prepaid HVDC micro grids

#### **4. Vetting Exercise**

The seed community started the vetting exercise with the first project idea on Solar Roof Top. The following are the main points discussed:

- The economy of scale can be more easily achievable if the focus is on commercial and industrial consumer rather than domestic consumer
- With regards to distribution companies it is easier to bring on board private discoms rather than government discoms
- There needs to be more government spending on setting up R&D facilities for technology to become more efficient and affordable while the existing R&D institutions can easily be roped into this agenda provided there are right incentives
- There is also a need to have sufficient number of skill personnel for maintenance and installation of solar PV and for this purpose private operators, private skill development agencies, ministry of renewable energy and ministry of skill development can be easily roped in. In some cases there will be incentives required for state level skill missions to support this initiative
- With regards to policy framework, the natural allies are Ministry of Renewable Energy, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, Advocacy organisations present in the field of renewable energy, and Reserve Bank of India which has already mandated priority sector lending for renewable energy. On the other hand, entities like bureaucracy, state governments and politicians would need right kind of incentives to be on board for considerations such as vote bank and losses to distribution companies amongst others while stakeholders like thermal power companies would remain as spoilers along with State Electricity Regulatory Commission who are instinctively not supportive of decentralised renewable energy.
- In terms for policy execution too State Electricity Regulatory Commission would offer a great resistance while Solar Energy Corporation of India would be a willing stakeholder. On the other hand, state nodal agency under MNRE would need incentives to be on board. The distribution company would remain one of the most difficult allies to get on board.

- The Seed Community also suggested that green building council, which is a natural ally, should also be reached out. Further, builder, architects and town planners (ULBs) should be rightly incentivised to scale up the rooftop solar
- The financial institutions, even though, mandated to provide funding for decentralised renewable energy are not currently well on board. This is because the loans for renewable energy projects are fraught with high risks at the moment. Therefore there is a need to de-risk investment in Renewable Energy projects.
- The idea of solar rooftop will not be able to achieve scale unless SERC and discoms are completely on board
- There is also a need to carry out a mass awareness campaign involving consumers, media, project developers, MNRE and local bodies amongst others

## **5 Way Forward**

Based on the above stated discussion, a final vote was proposed to decide if Solar Roof Top focussing on industrial and commercial consumer should be taken forward for further deliberation. Majority of the Seed Community members voted in favour and hence in the next meeting a more detailed proposal will be discussed.