

Green Growth and Energy Transformation
First Seed Community Meeting: Rajasthan Chapter

Sep, 6, 2016, Jaipur

Report

Background and Overview

The Government of India has set an ambitious target of achieving 175GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2022. The target corresponds to several underlying macro-economic objectives of economic growth, employment generation, environmental protection and resource efficiency. The State of Rajasthan with a huge renewable energy generation potential, holds a large stake in making this target achievable. However, this potential remains largely untapped, due to lack of an effective strategy in place. This therefore calls for a clear strategy roadmap, an integrated system of planning with all interests in mind and a futuristic approach taking into consideration both the developmental and sustainability aspects of the subject matter.

CUTS International along with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) has adopted an innovative approach to address the concern, through a 'Transformative Change Making (TCM) Methodology'. The initiative includes four chapters namely, the Rajasthan, the West Bengal, the national level and the international level (EU-India cooperation) chapter. To facilitate the process, CUTS and FES have set up a social coalition or a multi-stakeholder working group, referred to as the 'seed community' for each of the four chapters, in order to identify the implementable ideas/projects and the associated challenges and opportunities determining their technical, commercial and political feasibility.

The first seed community meeting for Rajasthan was held on Tuesday, Sep 6, 2016 in Jaipur. The Welcome Address for the event was delivered by Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International. This was followed by a presentation by Mr. Abhishek Kumar, Associate Director, CUTS International, highlighting the need for India to develop a transformative strategy to fulfil its national and international clean energy commitments. Further, Mr. Marc Saxer, Resident Director, FES India, introduced the Transformative Change Making Methodology to the seed community members. Post

this, the seed community members were to identify the catalytic projects which can create momentum, political buy-in and social acceptance for the process of energy transformation in the State. The event concluded with identification of 27 catalytic projects/ ideas by the seed community.

The Rajasthan Seed Community

The Rajasthan seed community consists of stakeholders representing various interest groups in the value chain (summarised by Fig. 1). These include representatives from the policy makers, utilities, researchers, academia, advocacy groups, consumers, farmers, self-help groups, developers, project deployers and financial institutions.

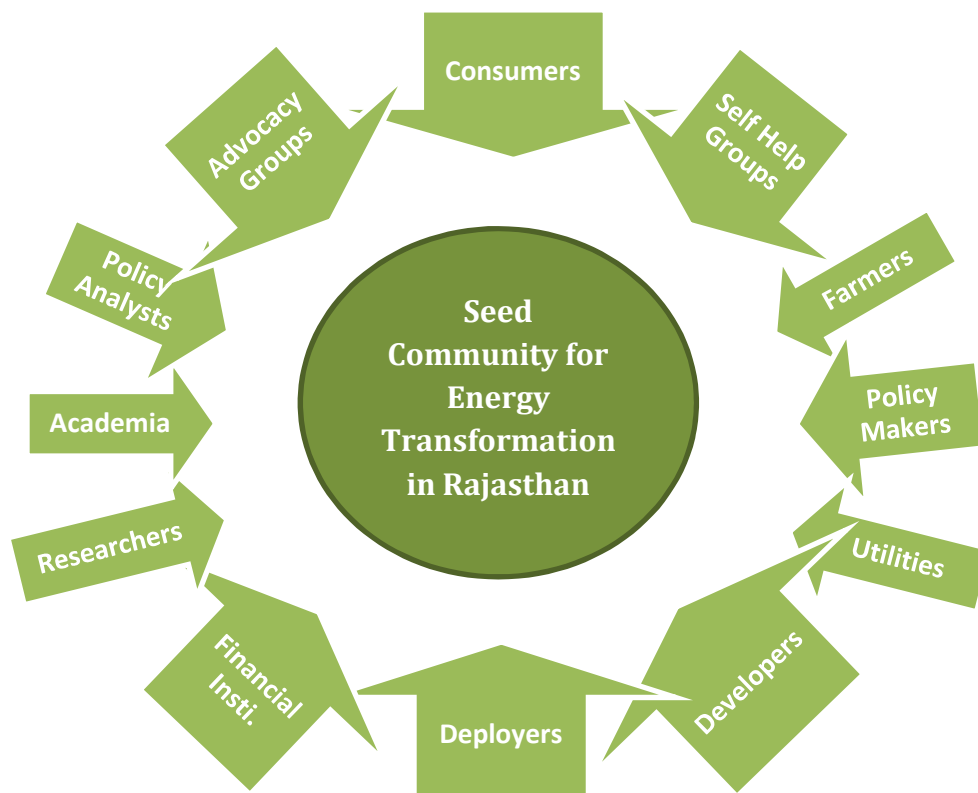


Figure 1: Stakeholder Representation in Rajasthan Seed Community

This seed community has been further classified into the two groups of ‘ideators’ and ‘peer reviewers’. The ‘ideators’ consist of experts who would identify the implementable catalytic projects and the associated opportunities and challenges. These ideas would be further vetted by the ‘peer reviewers’ consisting of policy experts in the sector, capable of influencing the policy environment and scaling up the implementation of the project ideas in the State.

The first seed community meeting for Rajasthan, was a meeting with the 'ideators'. Annex 1 contains the list of participants for the same.

Transformative Change Making (TCM) Methodology

The TCM methodology has emerged after a thorough research based on empirical evidence. One such evidence is the history of environmental discourse, which emerged in the global North. The history suggests that it took nearly six decades for the global community to identify a narrative which is aligned with the diverse political and ideological interests.

Some of the key observations which can be deduced from the historical evidence are as below:

- Change is not an outcome of facts and figures alone
- Change does not happen automatically
- Change cannot be brought only by taking into consideration the present frame realities
- Change does not happen if issues and concerns are not framed adequately

But rather, it requires:

- Incorporation of diverse interests
- A narrative based on the interests of each stakeholder
- A vision that is set in a neutral future where the immediate interests do not collide
- A paradigm shift, where the expectations are redefined

Based on this understanding of 'change', the following methodology has been formulated:

Briefly described, the methodology includes identification of catalytic projects/ideas, the associated challenges and opportunities and key identification of key allies. This will be done through a social coalition being referred to as 'Seed Community'. The methodology is explained in detail below:

- **Creation of a Social Coalition:** Transformation is an outcome of a social struggle and thus cannot happen just by taking a single or a few interests into consideration. It can happen through formulation of social coalitions where interest groups collide, seek negotiating paths and come together, to create transformation.

Thus a social coalition in the form of a 'seed community' or a long-term working group of stakeholders who would produce a vision and a narrative for energy transformation, needs to be created. The project thus aims to bring on board such drivers of change, who would identify the catalytic projects for energy

transformation in the State of Rajasthan and thoroughly vet them in terms of their practical implementation.

- **Identification of Catalytic Projects:** A project becomes catalytic if it can:
 - be scaled up
 - be transformative through structural game changers
 - be exemplified as a change narrative
 - become a nucleus for social coalition
 - create a platform for discourse alliance

The solar park lights project in Kolkata resonates well as a catalytic project.

Catalytic projects once identified, need to be vetted on the basis of their technical doability, commercial feasibility and political sellability.

- **Identification of Ingredients of a successful project:** 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 and additionally the opportunities to bank upon.
- **Identification of Allies: Natural, Transactional and Transformative:** Corresponding to each of the ingredients, all the key stakeholders required to tackle the challenges will have to be identified. These stakeholders will have to be further bifurcated strategically into the natural allies (already convinced or the 'champions'), transactional allies (need to be aligned with right kind of incentives to accommodate their interests) and transformative allies (whose interests do not align with ours or the 'spoilers').
- **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 more no. of transformative allies then there appears a greater difficulty in implementing such a project.
- **Strategy to co-opt the allies:** Once the implementable projects have been identified, the strategy to co-opt each of the allies needs to be thought of. The right kind of incentives will have to be identified for the transactional allies and also the ways to convert the transformative allies into the 'champions'.

Workshop on Identifying Catalytic Projects

Following the presentation on TCM methodology, the seed community in its first 'ideator' meeting identified 27 catalytic projects/ideas. These have been listed below:

S.No.	Catalytic Projects/Ideas
1.	Roof top solar PV for Schools in urban areas
2.	Rooftop solar PV for schools in remote areas: convergence with Light for Education Programme where students are given LED powered study lights
3.	Roof top solar PV for Court rooms
4.	Roof top solar PV for Malls
5.	Roof top solar PV for community clubs
6.	Solar powered LED TVs in Schools: Convergence with e-Education under Digital India Programme
7.	Primary health care centres running on solar powered technology: eg. low powered refrigerators for storing vaccines and baby warmers
8.	Livelihood generation through occupations relying on renewable energy powered tools, such as carpentry tools, sewing machines, grinding machines etc.
9.	Solar powered Integrated Service Centers, such as E-Mitra
10.	Solar powered mobile charging kiosks in rural areas
11.	Rural Areas powered by Solar PVs
12.	Solar-wind hybrid pumping systems
13.	Farm equipments powered by solar energy, such as tractors
14.	Community pumps running on solar energy
15.	Submersible pumping systems powered by solar energy in both urban and rural areas
16.	HVDC Micro Grids
17.	Smart metering
18.	Prepaid metering
19.	Renewable energy usage for 'Internet of things': remote monitoring systems
20.	Solar lighting systems in public toilets: Convergence with Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
21.	Solar lamps
22.	Smart grid solutions
23.	Eco-Tourism using renewable energy powered systems
24.	Solar street lights (Urban, Rural) with sensors
25.	Solar water ATMs along with a solar water purification system
26.	Solar loans for solar based projects
27.	Biomass based smokeless ' <i>choolaahs</i> ' or cooking stoves

Next Steps

CUTS and FES in consultation with the seed community members will assess each of the identified catalytic projects/ideas on the basis of their technical, commercial and political feasibility. The projects would then be shortlisted to be taken forward for the vetting exercise during the next seed community meeting.

The expert group workshop during the next seed community meeting would thus include the following:

- Identification of ingredients for making the shortlisted projects successful
- Identification of key allies and their categorisation into natural, transactional and transformative allies and

Annexure-1

List of ideators present during the First Seed Community Meeting of Rajasthan

S. No.	Name	Organisation
1.	Ajit Singh	NABARD
2.	Anita Kumari	Lume Solar Pvt. Ltd.
3.	Bharat	Gram Power
4.	Hari Prasad Yogi	Consumer activist group
5.	Khemraj Goyal	Bhartiya Kisan Sangh
6.	Himanshu Sharma	Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments Limited (REIL)
7.	S.P. Chandak	Birla Institute of Management and Technology
8.	Sanjay Mathur	Malaviya National Institute of Technology
9.	Simran Grover	Boond Engineering and Development Pvt. Ltd.
10.	Vivek Shastry	SELCO Foundation
11.	Yash Saxena	Rajasthan Solar Association

List of other participants and facilitators

S.No.	Name	Organisation
1.	Arkapal Sil	CUTS International
2.	Abhishek Kumar	CUTS International
3.	Bipul Chatterjee	CUTS International
4.	Dharmendra Chaturvedi	CUTS International
5.	Kanika Balani	CUTS International
6.	Madan Giri Goswami	CUTS International
7.	Mandvi Kulshreshtha	FES, India office
8.	Marc Saxer	FES, India office
9.	Rajdeep Pareek	CUTS International
10.	Sayantana Sengupta	CUTS International
11.	Sehaj Malik	FES, India office
12.	Shaurya Tandon	CUTS International
13.	Surbhi Singhvi	CUTS International
14.	Udai S. Mehta	CUTS International