

Formation and Strengthening of District Clean Energy Solutions Forum and Workshop

Under RACE Project

Venue: Conference Hall, Simdega

Date: 12-07-2023

Total Participants: 61 (M-39, F-22)

Introduction:

The District Clean Energy Solution Forum Workshop was a significant event held in as part of the Rural Access to Clean Energy (RACE) project. The workshop aimed to bring together stakeholders, experts, and community members to discuss and develop clean energy solutions for the district. This report provides an overview of the workshop's objectives, activities, outcomes, and future implications.

Agenda:

- Objective of RACE Project
- Discussion about different types of schemes started by govt. of India.
- Raise awareness about clean energy technologies and their potential in Simdega.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing among experts, stakeholders, and community members.
- Identify specific clean energy challenges faced by the district.
- Develop actionable strategies and solutions to promote clean energy adoption.
- Foster collaboration and partnerships among different stakeholders.
- Project Implementation and its Impact
- Sharing information about the progress of the project and taking suggestions & discussion for better implementation
- Q & A session.

Minutes of Meeting:

- **Mr. Narendr Mishra, District Project Manager (DPM) of the RACE Project at LEADS**, warmly welcomed the distinguished guests, NGO partners, active VCEC members, and young entrepreneurs from different blocks of Simdega, such as Kolebira, Kersai, Jaldega, and Simdega. He provided a comprehensive overview of the RACE Project and its focus on clean energy solutions.
- During his address, **Mr. Narendr Mishra, DPM of the RACE Project at LEADS**, highlighted the objectives of the project. He elaborated on the significant role played by LEADS in introducing clean energy technologies to rural communities and underscored the collaborative efforts of various institutions involved. Mr. Mishra emphasized the Green Business Challenge, an innovative aspect of the RACE Project that aims to foster youth entrepreneurship for a more prosperous India. He also delved into the potential of clean energy adoption in

safeguarding the environment. Additionally, he shared valuable insights on the Leads organization's efforts in providing technical training to empower youth entrepreneurs and enable self-employment opportunities.

- **Kuldeep Mehta, Clean Energy Solution Coordinator for the RACE Project**, delivered an impactful session on the consequences of global warming. He emphasized the importance of transitioning to solar energy and reducing reliance on traditional energy sources as a means of contributing to environmental protection. In addition, he provided valuable insights on energy conservation by suggesting the use of LED bulbs instead of conventional 100-watt bulbs. Furthermore, he highlighted various government schemes such as Kusum Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana and Mukhyamantri jalna yojna, shedding light on their significance in promoting clean energy adoption.
- During his session, **Kuldeep Mehta** also emphasized the significance of community-level responsibility in safeguarding common resources. He elaborated on the accomplishments and initiatives undertaken by Leads, including the establishment of village clean energy committees and the organization of workshops at the panchayat and block levels. These efforts have contributed to the successful implementation of clean energy solutions in the project area.
- **Kuldeep Mehta** provided a comprehensive overview of the major renewable energy sources. He highlighted solar energy harnessed from the sun, geothermal energy derived from the Earth's internal heat, wind power, and biomass obtained from plants as the primary renewable energy sources. This information further reinforced the potential and importance of these sources in the transition towards a sustainable energy future.
- Later, he elaborated on several potential business ideas, including the establishment of a small flour mill, an oil extracting machine, a solar dryer, a banana chips cutting machine, and a popcorn machine. These businesses could be set up at the paddy field and powered by domestic lighting or solar systems through the Kusum scheme. The workshop participants were provided with a price list of domestic solar-run equipment and engaged in discussions about the associated benefits.
- Additionally, Kuldeep Mehta provided a comprehensive explanation of smokeless chulhas, including their operation and associated benefits. The workshop attendees also delved into the subsidy limits and the process by which villagers could obtain smokeless chulhas. These topics were discussed in great detail, covering all relevant aspects and addressing any queries or concerns from the participants.
- **The Q&A session** was expertly moderated by Narendra Mishra and Kuldeep Mehta from the LEADS team, who enthusiastically addressed a multitude of queries from the curious youth regarding the Jharkhand government's schemes and their associated subsidies. They comprehensively explained the various schemes implemented by the state government, emphasizing their commitment to supporting the implementation of these schemes at both the district and state levels. Moreover, they emphasized their dedication to ensuring effective coordination and execution on the ground. Notably, they highlighted the LEADS organization's efforts in training youth to repair solar energy equipment and their successful establishment of smokeless chulha and LED production units.

These initiatives have empowered the youth economically, and the moderators shared valuable information about these endeavors.

- **Sandeep Kumar, District Program Manager (DPM) at Pratham Foundation Simdega**, expressed the organization's commitment to supporting child-centric activities conducted under the RACE Project in the field of education. Pratham Foundation, known for its work in the education sector, is fully dedicated to collaborating and actively participating in initiatives that prioritize the well-being and development of children.
- **Mrs. Anjurina Minz (Mukhiya of Agharma Panchayat)** and **Mrs. Kalpana Devi (Mukhiya of Nawatoli Panchayat)** expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the commendable work undertaken by LEADS and assured the organization for complete support from the panchayat in all possible endeavors. They earnestly appealed to the PRI Members and villagers to extend their wholehearted support in order to collectively drive the clean energy initiatives forward.
- The workshop concluded with the objectives of raising awareness about clean energy within the community through collaborative efforts with various institutions, fostering a positive atmosphere. Additionally, the participants gained a clear understanding of the role and functions of the District Level Clean Energy Solutions Forum.
 - The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by **Manish Kumar Singh (Block Coordinator, RACE)**, expressing gratitude to all the participants and stakeholders for their valuable contributions and active participation throughout the workshop.

Event Photo Gallery at a Glance:-

Media Coverage:-