



BACHAT PROJECT

INDIA

Bachat in Hindi translates to “savings” and refers to fuel, money and time savings, as well as saving the environment and saving lives. The Bachat program is achieving improvements in terms of health, environment and economy, but also building climate resilience of the rural population and strengthening women leadership in the SHE schools.

Background

With its population of 1.3 billion and growing, India is to become the most populated country in the world in the next decade. In India, a large part of the rural population still cooks on an open fire. The burning of wood is an important source of greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation and air pollution. This practice not only has adverse effects on the climate, but also on people’s health.

In India alone, more than one million people, including an estimated 100,000 children, die each year as a result of indoor air pollution. India is also one of the countries that is hit the hardest by the effects of climate change. Changing weather patterns, floods and extreme droughts are a major challenge for India’s rural population who largely depend on smallscale agriculture for their livelihoods.

BACHAT Programme

Since 2016, Care India has been working to supply Improved cookstoves to families in the districts of Kalahandi and Kandhamal (Odisha). These are tribal communities that depend for their livelihoods on small scale farming and the nearby forest. Since 2021 FairClimateFund, partnered with Care India to ensure the financial sustainability of the program and make the technology more affordable by Carbon registration.

Together we will scale the Bachat project. The goal of the project is to provide access to improved cooking solutions for 9,000 marginalized households in Odisha with a sustained user rate of 80-90% and to achieve emission reduction of 10,000 tonnes CO2 annually by 2024.

The project will directly engage with 9000 women. These 9,000 women will become members of 450 SHE Schools. Each of the SHE members will be introduced

to benefits of clean cooking. The cookstoves are 100% prefinanced with carbon finance. They are available for the members with a 80% discount on the original price. A contribution of 20% will be collected from SHE members and will be posited in the fairtrade carbon cooperative’s bank account. The SHE members, that are also members of this cooperative, will decide how these funds will be used.

Impact

Under the Bachat phase 2 programme that started in 2022, 3,000 households have been provide with the new high quality Greenway Jumbo cookstoves. Households reported a significant reduction in fuelwood consumption and reduced Indoor Air Pollution. Also, it has reduced fuelwood pressure on nearby forests and contributed to better forest preservation.

The SHE School will cover themes such as clean energy and types of fuel & efficiency. As a result, SHE members start talking about their struggles. After attending the SHE schools’ sessions, the SHE member’s perspectives have been changing, and they have started discussing the benefits of a cleaner form of cooking within their peer groups.



10.000

Households with access to improved cooking solutions



450

SHE schools



30.000

tonnes CO2 annually by 2024



Fairtrade Climate Standard

The BACHAT program has received funding up to 2020 from the EU through the SWITCH Asia II program. Through carbon registration the program should in time become self-sustaining. The Fairtrade Climate Standard ensures that beneficiaries will be organized into a Fairtrade Carbon certified cooperative that will be the owner of these credits. The income from carbon credits is used to pay for the use and maintenance of the installations and to support farmers financially and through training to survive in a changing climate. Excess revenues above program costs and product subsidies will go directly to the cooperative.

Benefits of the project

Contribution to the SDGs

Health

- Clean and safe cooking prevents inhalation of harmful smoke and burns
- Less physical strain because less wood has to be collected for cooking



Climate and environment

- Reduced use of wood prevents deforestation
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions



Social

- Women experience a lot of convenience and can spend more time on family and education
- Women are less exposed to forms of harassment while collecting wood



Economic

- By saving time opportunities for women to generate more income
- Local employment through production and maintenance of cookstoves



Do you want more information about this project?

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This project is certified by Gold Standard and the Fairtrade Climate Standard.

