



In the FairClimateFund biogas project, households in rural India get access to a 100% sustainable and clean way of cooking. Cooking on biogas is better for health, climate and environment and saves households time and money.

Background

With 1.3 billion inhabitants, India is fast becoming the largest country in the world in terms of population and plays a crucial role in the climate change issue. India is in fourth place behind China, the US and the EU in CO₂ emissions. In India, a large part of the rural population (800 million people) still cooks on an open fire. Burning biomass makes an important contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation and air pollution. But cooking on an open fire not only has adverse effects on the climate, also on people's health. In India, more than a million people die every year from inhaling harmful fumes from cooking. Outdoor air pollution, but especially indoors, is also very harmful to young children. Every year, an estimated 100,000 children under the age of 5 die in India from air pollution.

India is also one of the countries hardest hit by the effects of climate change. Changing weather patterns, flooding and extreme drought are a major challenge for many of the Indian population who depend on small-scale farming for their livelihoods.

Biogas

Since 2009, FairClimateFund has been working with its local Fair Climate Network partner ADATS to supply biogas plants to 12,000 farming families in the Chickballapur district of Karnataka province. A biogas plant consists of an underground biodigester in which organic waste, mainly cow droppings, is converted into methane gas and bioslurry. The gas is led to the house via a plastic hose where it is connected to a two-burner gas stove. This clean way of cooking replaces the traditional way of cooking on an open fire.

The bioslurry is the residual product that remains and can be used as a biological and sustainable alternative to fertilizers.

About 2 cows are needed to provide an average household with sufficient gas for cooking on a daily basis. Cooking on biogas is comparable to cooking on normal gas in terms of convenience and air quality. The only difference is that biogas is a 100% renewable energy.

Impact

When cooking with biogas, there is no smoke development, as when cooking on an open fire. This means health benefits for the whole family, in particular for women and children. In addition, women no longer have to fetch wood, cooking is easier and faster and it prevents black soot deposits in the house. On average, women save eight hours a week by using biogas. This time can be spent on family, household or economic activities.

Moreover, the bio slurry is a very good and free alternative to fertilizers. Various studies have shown that bioslurry has a very positive effect on agricultural productivity.

More information:

<https://www.fairclimatefund.nl/en/projects/india-clean-cooking-with-biogas>



11,633

Biogas installations are used



218,418

Thousand kilos wood saved
= 436,837 trees



203,361

Tonnes of CO₂ reduced



Fairtrade

This project is Gold Standard certified and additionally has the Fairtrade Climate Standard certification. The farming families in this project are members of the Bagepalli Coolie Sangha (BCS), a Fairtrade certified democratic organization that has stood up for the interests of local farmers and agricultural workers for over 25 years. BCS owns the project and is entitled to the revenues resulting from the sale of carbon credits. This income is sufficient to cover all costs of the project and the biogas installations. The surplus of income goes directly in cash to the farming families. In addition, a Fairtrade premium is used to set up training courses in the field of climate resilience and adaptation. These training courses are provided by ADATS.

Ambition

Since 2009, the project has given 12,000 families access to biogas. FairClimateFund is responsible for financing the project and ADATS for the implementation. 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.

Benefits of the project

Contribution to the SDGs

Health

- Clean and safe cooking prevents inhalation of harmful smoke and burns
- Less physical strain because no more wood has to be collected for cooking



Climate and environment

- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by switching to 100% renewable energy
- Reduced use of wood prevents deforestation



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
- Reduced expenditure on fuel and fertilizers
- Local employment through construction and maintenance of biogas installations



Do you want more information about this project?

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

