

Use of improved cookstoves can save many lives in India – say experts at the India Clean Cookstove Forum 2014

New Delhi, 5 November 2014... Over 145 million Indian households use traditional cookstoves for their daily cooking and depend on biomass fuels such as wood, dung, or agricultural residues that cause health-threatening levels of indoor air pollution, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). While currently not perceived as a major threat by most, household air pollution is actually responsible for around 500,000 deaths in India every year. To put the seriousness of this problem in context, TB which is the biggest killer disease in India, is responsible for 5.5 lakh deaths in a year.

To compound the seriousness of the situation, over 40 crore people in India are exposed to the health perils related to household air pollution, which is actually a leading cause of lower life expectancy, caused by cardiovascular disease, lung cancer, chronic pulmonary disease, pneumonia, and other acute infections. Indoor Air Pollution can be reduced through the use of improved cookstoves that consume less fuel and emit less smoke. Experts from the industry and government, discussed the next steps to tackle the challenges hindering the large-scale adoption of improved cookstoves in India at the **India Clean Cookstove Forum 2014, organised in New Delhi today.**



According to Dr. Harald Richter, Head of the Renewable Energy Component of the Indo-German Energy Programme, GIZ India, “The negative effects of traditional cooking practices can be significantly reduced by the use of improved cook-stoves that provide more efficient and clean combustion. However, adoption of these stoves has so far been low in India. This is due some key factors that include - low demand due to low awareness about indoor air pollution

and improved cookstoves, insufficient supply of appropriate technologies and fuels, as well as the lack of economically viable business and distribution models; and an unfavourable market environment with a lack of market intelligence and knowledge networks.”

To address these significant challenges, several recommendations were discussed at the India Clean Cookstove Forum, including:

- **Increasing demand** by developing cost-effective marketing and awareness campaigns, and establishing models for end-user finance.
- **Improving Supply** by facilitating stove selection and design, by supporting manufacturers and distributors to develop and select appropriate cooking technologies that are best suited for specific regional contexts. Developing Innovative distribution / business models that can make stove sales an economically-viable business proposition
- **Improving the market environment** by supporting the design and implementation of policies and support schemes to strengthen the policy environment for clean cooking technologies.

Discussions also highlighted several important initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of New and Renewable Resources, including the *Unnat Chulha Abhiyan*, and the National CDM Programme of Activities for improved cookstoves.

Participants at the **India Clean Cookstove Forum 2014**, included distinguished experts from the government and industry, including Ms. Varsha Joshi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

The India Clean Cookstove Forum is an initiative of the “Indo-German Energy Programme - Renewable Energy Component” (IGEN-RE), a bilateral technical cooperation between the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, implemented by GIZ. The event is supported by Tata Trusts, Shell Foundation, Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and the Asian Development Bank.

Implementation partners for IGEN-RE include - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency, Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency, West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency, Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency.

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For more information on the India Clean Cookstove Forum 2014, visit

<http://www.cleancookstoves.org/media-and-events/events/india-clean-cookstoves-forum-2014.html>

