WORLD CLEAN ENERGY AWARDS

Winner of the Jury's Special Award 2007
Anandi Sharan, Women for Sustainable Development

Project
Bagepalli CDM Biogas Project, India

This project quantifies the air pollution from traditional cook stoves, in order to obtain emission-reduction financing under the Kyoto Protocol.

Project description

Three billion women in the developing world use non-renewable biomass for cooking, thereby adding to greenhouse gas emissions and to the unsustainable use of resources. Under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol it is possible to obtain financing for projects in the developing world which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This project quantified the emissions resulting from using wood and kerosene for cooking, by applying the non-renewable biomass methodology. This methodology was subsequently approved by the CDM Executive Board in December 2005, paving the way for the project to obtain financing for poor households to change their cooking methods.

The project entails setting up 5,500 biogas plants for individual households in the Kolar District in India. Each household will use the dung of its cows to feed the biogas plant, which will produce gas for cooking. The project will thus replace the inefficient wood-fired mud stoves, which used up to 2.5kg of wood per person per day. As the Kolar District is semi-arid and has scarce wood resources, the project protects the remainder from deforestation. It saves greenhouse gas emissions from wood and kerosene burning and improves health by reducing kitchen smoke.

The reductions in greenhouse gas emissions generate the finances for the project, as the Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) can be sold on the emissions trading market. This is expected to earn the women as much as they receive from 1 acre of dry land groundnut cultivation in a year.

Project contact details

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