

Solar xChange: Workshop on Village Scale Solar Power Supply Models

April 21, 2015 (Tuesday), TERI Southern Regional Centre, Bangalore

The half day workshop is part of the ongoing interdisciplinary research project, Solar xChange: “A comparative study of socio-technical innovations and sustainability factors for up-scaling village scale solar power supply models in developing countries”, lasting from the year 2013 to 2016. The project is led from the Department of Sociology and Human Geography at the University of Oslo, and has research partners & practitioners from India (TERI), Kenya and Norway.

The main objective of this research project is to assess experiences with different models for village-scale solar power supply systems in the Global South, explore their role in adaptation to climate change, and draw lessons for their wider dissemination, provide new, real world examples and initiate up-scaling processes and knowledge exchange. The project team aims to actively transfer, “translate” and build on insights between investigated cases, actors and countries and apply the knowledge in pilot projects implemented by the project team.

The aim of the Workshop is to exchange information about ongoing activities and policies in the field of solar power provision in India and Kenya. Leading experts from each country will share recent trends as well as experiences and lessons learned, especially on off-grid, but also on grid-connected use of solar PV technology.

Preliminary Program:

14.00 – 14.20: Registration and Tea/Coffee

14.20 – 14.30: Welcome by Debajit Palit, Associate Director, TERI

14.30 – 15:00: Key Note: The framework conditions for village scale solar power in Global South especially India and the challenges and opportunities

- Dr Akanksha Chaurey, CEO, IT Power Consulting Private Ltd, New Delhi

15.00 – 15.30: The Solar xChange Project: Experiences and Lessons so far

- Ms Kirsten Ulsrud, Project Leader, Solar xChange Project, University of Oslo, Norway

15.30 – 15.50: Discussants

- Mr S C Rajshekar, Director, Symbiotec Research Associates
- Dr Parimita Mohanty, Director, The Climate Group

15.50 – 16.15: Implementation and operation of Solar PV for community power in Kenya

- Eng. Henry Gichungi, Former Deputy Manager, Off-grid Power Stations, Kenya Power

16.15 – 16.25: Discussant

- Mr Charles Muchunku, Solar PV Consultant, Kenya

16.25 – 17.25: Moderated Panel Discussion: Village Scale Solar PV Systems for enhancing access

The experience of different models in different geographical contexts, future role of village-level models and other off-grid solar power models including lessons for up-scaling processes and long-term sustainability and complementarity of off-grid and grid connected projects will be critically discussed.

17.25 - 17.30: Concluding Remarks and Wrap up

17.30 - 19.00: Networking and High Tea/Coffee