Sustain Plus works at the intersection of sustainable development and renewable energy, to accelerate development action by ensuring affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for development. Under this mandate, Sustain Plus focuses on 6 prominent solution themes:

**Production Hubs | 20,800+ HHs**
The farm sector holds significant potential for socio-economic transformation, and sustainable energy access can enhance farmer incomes, optimise production costs, reduce drudgery and strengthen the farm ecosystem in conjunction with other support services.

**Waste to Energy | 3,000+ HHs**
Solutions to enable circular bioeconomy-based circular bioeconomy-based economies and unlock the economic potential of waste to generate energy, biogas for clean cooking, and organic fertilizer to enhance soil quality and reduce input costs for farmers.

**Clean Mobility | 800+ HHs**
Fostering inclusive micro-entrepreneurship for men and women in the clean mobility space for livelihoods, improved connectivity, safety, and local logistics.

**Non-farm Rural Livelihoods | 600+ HHs**
Enhancing rural medical services through solar powered energy access and integration of energy efficient appliances for PHCs.

**Cold Chain Solutions | 22,200+ HHs**
Customised, multi-sectoral cold chain solutions across cooling spectrums ranging from sub-zero to 18°C for applications in the agriculture, livestock and health value chains.

Sustain Plus works within the poverty context on socially and financially inclusive solutions to improve livelihoods and quality of life. Through a collaboration approach, Sustain Plus:

- Co-designs and implements long term solutions with partner stakeholders focusing on DRE at scale
- Enables best-fit holistic energy solutions that address critical gap areas across livelihood sectors, health and education initiatives
- Leverages the experience and network of its founding partners to implement replicable models for proven DRE solutions
- Creates blueprints of financially viable and sustainable solutions for further replication and scale

With a focus on SDG7, Sustain Plus leverages its widespread network of over 80 grassroots partners and more than 100 solution providers, to work with communities and individuals most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as, small and marginal farmers, women and children in rural areas.

Set-up in 2019, Sustain Plus Energy Foundation is a convening platform for Social Alpha, Selco Foundation and Collectives for Integrated Livelihoods Initiatives (CInI) and a leading effort to transform the fabric of climate action in India.

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Designed by Off Centre Collective
Namaste! I am Somwari from a small village in India. I work very hard on the farm with my husband and three children. Our farmland is an undulating terrain, where we are only able to grow enough to feed our family. Every year rains are becoming more unpredictable and if the crop fails, production is so low that we are forced to migrate to make ends meet. We want a dignified life, free of poverty, for our children and ourselves. But how?

The absence of an enabling ecosystem for small and marginal farmers hampers access to appropriate technology, market and financing solutions, resulting in high levels of drudgery, low quality and productivity, and little opportunity for diversification or value addition. A systematic production hub approach focusing on all enabling stakeholders including energy as a key enabler can catalyse farm livelihoods significantly.

Now, after almost 5 years, with the production hub and its services, farming has become easier and more profitable. We are able to grow and sell high value crops and earn more. Our children are in better schools and I am able to build a pucca house and buy a vehicle.

Access to affordable and timely credit enhances input quality and risk appetite. Reduced drudgery, improved operational efficiency, better soil aeration and crop growth, better yields and incomes.

Localised and timely access to appropriate cultivation inputs (seed, manure, fertiliser, etc.) through FPOs to meet seasonal demand cost effectively.

Access to affordable and reliable irrigation, lower operating costs, appropriate irrigation levels, enhanced productivity per unit of land, reduced drudgery, gender inclusive solutions.

Expert farmer interactions and digital platforms for appropriate farming practices and advisory, and market negotiation.

Localised aggregation, storage and value addition services with farmer-trader interface opportunities for better negotiation and price realisation.

Connectivity and appropriate production volumes are critical for assured market access supported by aggregation and storage points.

Production Hubs and the Agri-Ecosystem

**Community Planning**

A vibrant community institution is the cornerstone of a successful production hub, to enable the local ecosystem.

**Input**

Access to affordable and timely cultivation inputs (seed, manure, fertiliser, etc.) through FPOs to meet seasonal demand cost effectively.

**Solar Irrigation**

Reduced drudgery, improved operational efficiency, better soil aeration and crop growth, better yields and incomes.

**Farm Mechanisation**

Localised and timely access to appropriate cultivation inputs (seed, manure, fertiliser, etc.) through FPOs to meet seasonal demand cost effectively.

**Farm Advisory**

Access to affordable and reliable irrigation, lower operating costs, appropriate irrigation levels, enhanced productivity per unit of land, reduced drudgery, gender inclusive solutions.

**Market**

Expert farmer interactions and digital platforms for appropriate farming practices and advisory, and market negotiation.

**Post Harvest Services**

Localised aggregation, storage and value addition services with farmer-trader interface opportunities for better negotiation and price realisation.

**Production Hubs in the Agri-Ecosystem**

The absence of an enabling ecosystem for small and marginal farmers hampers access to appropriate technology, market and financing solutions, resulting in high levels of drudgery, low quality and productivity, and little opportunity for diversification or value addition. A systematic production hub approach focusing on all enabling stakeholders including energy as a key enabler can catalyse farm livelihoods significantly.

**Production Hubs and DRE**

DRE solutions help farming communities become more energy smart, efficient and climate resilient, enabling multi-faceted socio-economic, health and environmental benefits. A clean energy driven production hub—through collaborative action by all stakeholders—has the potential to accelerate growth and result in higher prosperity outcomes.

*This understanding of the Production Hub builds on CInI’s Lakhpati Kissan program approach, integrating energy as a key enabler.*