

## PURE DIALOGUES: Chapter 1 – Jharkhand

### Regional Consultation on Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE)

---



Sustain Plus Energy Foundation, in collaboration with GOGLA, UNDP India, and Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (Cini), organized the first dialogue on Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE) in Ranchi, Jharkhand on February 21st, 2024. The event drew over 100 participants, including women FPO leaders, technology players, philanthropic agencies, financial institutions, civil society players and government representatives. Mr. Jeevan Kumar Jethani from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy highlighted the potential of DRE technologies to transform communities at the last mile.

The event focused on enabling a dialogue between Samaj, Sarkar, and Bazar (Society, Government, and Market) with representatives from end user communities, practitioners and policy makers. Delegates from state energy and agriculture departments, sector experts, researchers and users deliberated and shared their experiences, learnings and challenges towards the adoption of #PURE solutions for livelihoods in Jharkhand.

They delved into existing gaps and challenges for integrating decentralized renewable energy (DRE) into agriculture and allied value chains, aiming to create space for discussions on innovations and ideas.

The discussion also touched upon the importance of establishing quality benchmarks for the DRE livelihood sector. It highlighted the significance of market-based approaches and the necessity for quality assurance at affordable prices. Moreover, there was an emphasis on understanding the fragmented nature of quality in the market and how technology providers ensure it, underscoring the need for a comprehensive approach. Clear guidelines for usage and maintenance, accessibility to local stakeholders for repairs, and prioritizing customer satisfaction were identified as crucial factors.

Additionally, promoting government support for good technology and products were emphasized. The conversation also addressed the importance of digitalization for tracking operations, as well as the significance of post-harvest solutions and product marketing in leveraging solar energy for tribal empowerment. In addition, discussions on training women on solar was taken up which can make the community an independent representative of the solution.



### Panelists

Panel Discussion 1: DRE Applications for livelihoods: The end user, practitioner - policymaker dialogue		
Moderator: Ayan Deb, Sustain Plus		
1	Sunita Murmu	Gharonj Lahanti FPO
2	Abhinav Mishra	Agriculture Department, GoJ
3	Joy Chakrabarty	West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA)
4	Shilp Verma	International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
5	Garima Kumari	Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CInI)
6	Mukesh Prasad	Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
7	Priya Tayde	Powering Livelihoods
	Mudit Jhunjunwala	Nimbus Solar Solutions

### Panel Discussion 2: Ensuring quality benchmarks for the DRE livelihood sector.

Moderator: Praviin B. Kumar, GOGLA

1	Richa Goyal	IKEA Foundation
2	Yamini Keche	pManifold Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
3	Tushar Devidayal	Devidayal Solar Solutions
4	Prajakt Dhawale	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

### Panel Discussion 3: Leveraging solar energy for tribal empowerment.

Moderator: Shweta Koshy, UNDP India

1	Lalmuni Marandi	Churchu FPO
2	Bishnu C. Parida	Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS)
3	Debanjan Ghatak	Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN)
4	Supriya Gowda	SELCO Foundation
5	Angar Nath Swarnakar	ST, SC, BC and Minorities welfare, GoJ

#### Key takeaways:

1. **Optimization of PURE assets:** Stakeholders acknowledged that the underutilization of solar pumps is a concern and concerted efforts are needed for creating demos and scaling them across the state.
2. **Creation of Operation and Maintenance mechanism:** Discussions across all panels emphasized the need for additional budget allocation for spare parts, stocking in FPOs, AMC, capacity building, and clustering deployment.
3. Discussions highlighted the **importance of establishing robust quality benchmarks and adopting consumer protection measures** to ensure the efficiency and reliability of DRE solutions.
4. **Various government schemes and convergence opportunities within Agri-allied sectors** were presented, highlighting avenues for further collaboration and support.
5. **Call for Collaborative Action:** The event concluded with a call for collaborative action and stakeholder engagement to drive positive change and sustainable rural livelihoods.

Overall, the event provided valuable insights into the potential of PURE solutions, the importance of stakeholder collaboration, and the need for quality standards to ensure the effectiveness and reliability of renewable energy initiatives in rural communities.

An exhibition was also organised in the venue highlighting key technologies and products around Lac, portable solar light, organic manure, etc.

