



INDIA

Low-Carbon Rural Development



EDF and FCN's network has reached 254,571 households across more than 589,000 acres throughout India. We are installing 108,500 domestic biogas units and 54,000 fuel-efficient wood-burning stoves in households, while also applying low-carbon farming techniques to more than 79,000 acres of land.

Who We Are

Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) is a leading international non-governmental organization representing more than one million members worldwide. Since 1967, EDF has been connecting science, economics and law to create innovative, equitable and cost-effective solutions to society's most urgent environmental problems.

Fair Climate Network (FCN) is a consortium of over 100 dedicated individuals composed of development workers, climate change activists, environmentalists, scientists and other professionals from India and abroad. Together they represent 35 grassroots NGOs.

EDF and FCN have been on the ground together in India since 2009 developing market-based solutions to tough environmental challenges. Together, we are working to improve existing community structures by delivering clean cooking, lighting and improved agricultural practices in rural India. The overall objective of this work is to help farmer households improve their livelihoods

and adaptation capacity, while adopting a low-carbon development pathway. The program continues to grow rapidly with 31 more projects in an advanced stage of development.

In 2014, we initiated the first domestic greenhouse gas (GHG) offset program in partnership with IndiGo Airlines. IndiGo enables its flyers, during the booking process, to voluntarily contribute Rs 100 (approx. \$1.60) to offset carbon emissions. Revenue generated through this voluntary contribution is used to support the implementation of climate resilient development projects in India.

Where We Work

EDF and FCN's pilot Low-Carbon Rural Development (LCRD) project began in five states: Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha. With the success of this pilot and continued support from our funding partners, our network has grown and now extends to Bihar, Maharastra and Uttarakhand.



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In Action

B. Devi is a farmer from the Diguva Muddikuppam village of Chittoor District in Andhra Pradesh. She lives in a one room hut with her husband and four children. Until recently, a typical day for B. Devi centered around a meal-time ritual, including boiling water and cooking food for her family on two mud stoves. The mud stoves were highly ineffective and unreliable, especially in the rainy season when the wet branches would expel toxic amounts of smoke from the branches causing breathing and air quality issues. B. Devi was also spending time twice a week traveling to the forest to collect fuelwood in order to feed her family of five.

With the introduction of the CROSS FCS Biogas Unit, B. Devi's kitchen environment has drastically improved. The biogas unit was constructed near her house in November 2014 by an FCN Member NGO. Now, she and her husband have time to spend with their children that was previously spent gathering firewood and preparing meals. Furthermore, B. Devi is now able to cook inside her house, where she not only feels at ease, but is able to do so with safer air quality for her and her family. EDF and FCN's mission is not only to lower emissions safely and economically, but also to offer safer and cleaner alternatives for people in rural communities that can vastly improve their daily lives.

What We Do

FCN and EDF have a landscape approach to emissions management and view rural communities holistically—considering the interactions between farms, households and communities as we design and implement Low-Carbon Rural Development activities.

Benefits of Low-Carbon Rural Development Intervention

	Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Renewable Source of Energy	Resource Efficiency (Water, Fertilizer, Fuel, Wood, Etc.)	Improves Indoor Air Quality and Health	Additional Source of Income for Farmer / Households	Reduces Farmer's Input Cost
Biogas Unit Installation						
Efficient Wood Burning Stoves						
Off-Grid Solar Lighting						
Precision Fertilization, Crop & Soil Management						

Looking Ahead

EDF and FCN's low-carbon rural development programs, which are grounded in data and systems, provide a basis for the programs' positive development impacts, economic viability, and scalability. Looking ahead, we will rely on this approach, as well as policies, markets, and relationships with members of Parliament, to scale up LCRD programs to districts and states across India.