



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 in the process of implementing 108,500 domestic Biogas units and 54,000 fuel efficient woodstoves 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 US-based 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 who work to facilitate and capacitate the rural poor who are negatively affected by climate change.

EDF and FCN have been on the ground together in India since 2007 developing market-based solutions to tough environmental challenges. Together, we are working to improve existing rural community structures and agricultural practices in 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 and 31 more projects are 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.

Where We Work

EDF and FCN's pilot low-carbon rural development 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. On a typical day, B. Devi's meal time ritual included boiling water and cooking food for her family on two mud stoves. The mud stoves were highly ineffective and unreliable especially in 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. Our areas of intervention include:

	Reduces Green-house 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 data and systems driven approach to implementation of LCRD programs is a powerful demonstration of the development impacts, economic viability, and scalability of these projects. We we move forward, it is now imperative to scale up efforts across large jurisdictions such as a state or districts using policy and market levers.

We have begun the process of engaging with policy makers and are actively working with them to develop a strong case for investments in LCRD across districts and states.