



MODERN ENERGY COOKING
FORUM 2025

INDIA  4th Edition

26th September 2025 - New Delhi



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REGISTER**



Agenda – Modern Energy Cooking Forum 2025

26th September 2025 | India Habitat Centre

We cordially invite you to the fourth edition of the **Modern Energy Cooking Forum 2025**, organised by the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) Programme, through its In-country partner, India, **Finovista**. The Forum was established in 2022 with the aim of intensifying the cooperation amongst the stakeholders from both the public and private sectors in the areas of modern energy for clean cooking by offering them a platform to promote dialogue and exchange ideas to leverage investment in renewable energies, particularly electricity access, to address the clean cooking challenge.

Clean cooking, which refers to using fuels that are less polluting in the kitchen, such as LPG/PNG, biogas, ethanol, Solar, and electricity for cooking purposes, has been on the development agenda for decades. But, in recent years, it has become a major priority on the global development agenda as part of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7: Affordable and clean energy of the World Bank. Globally, more than 2 billion people lack access to clean cooking energy and rely on traditional fuels for their daily cooking requirements. In India, 63.4% of households use clean fuels like LPG for cooking, with urban penetration at 92.9% and rural at just 49.3%¹. After universal access to electric energy, the biggest energy access challenge that India needs to resolve is the transition to clean cooking. Consequently, this causes twin problems of high ambient air pollution coupled with health hazards for some of the vulnerable sections of society, including women and children. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 40% of premature deaths due to air pollution are attributable to IAP, resulting in 4 million premature deaths annually globally (WHO, 2012), including more than 1.2 million deaths in India³ every year. The magnitude of the challenge is large, leading to a huge adverse impact on the economy and the well-being of the people.

Electric cooking (eCooking) offers a clean, efficient, convenient and cost-effective alternative, producing no harmful emissions and supporting safer kitchen environments. Devices like induction cooktops and electric pressure cookers are up to 83% efficient, compared to 40% for LPG, and reduce dependency on gas refills⁴. At a national level, India imports over USD 125 billion worth of fossil fuels annually⁵, highlighting the need for sustainable and locally available energy alternatives. Recognising this, the Government of India has been actively promoting electric mobility and electric cooking through initiatives like the GoElectric Campaign (2021)⁶, and programs supporting energy-efficient cooking. With India becoming an electricity-surplus nation in 2020⁷, achieving 50% of its installed capacity from renewable sources⁸ and now offering 22–24 hours of electricity access, even in rural and remote areas, there is a timely opportunity to transition to electric-based cooking solutions.

¹ <https://www.iea.org/reports/sdg7-data-and-projections/access-to-clean-cooking>

² <https://www.mospi.gov.in/percentage-households-using-clean-fuel-cooking-each-stateut-sector-wise>

³ <https://cleancooking.org/binary-data/RESOURCE/file/000/000/518-1.pdf>

⁴ <https://mec.org.uk/blog/less-power-scottly-user-control-of-induction-stoves/>

⁵ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1699386>

⁶ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1699386>

⁷ https://cea.nic.in/wp-content/uploads/executive/2020/11/exe_summary-09.pdf

⁸ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2144627#:~:text=Achieves%2050%25%20clean%20power%20capacity,%20reliant%20and%20sustainable%20future.%E2%80%9D>

Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) Programme in India

Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) is an eight-year research programme funded by UK Aid (FCDO) and led by Loughborough University. The MECS programme researches the socio-economic realities of a transition from polluting fuels to a range of modern fuels. Whilst the research covers several clean fuels, the evidence is pointing to the viability, cost-effectiveness, and user satisfaction that energy-efficient electric cooking devices provide. The programme works in close collaboration with NGOs, governments, the private sector, academia, policy representatives, and communities across 16 countries to accelerate the shift from biomass to genuinely clean cooking.

In India, the programme was launched in early 2020 and works across the intersections of policy, finance, supply chain and promotion of electric cooking to enable the transition to modern fuels for cooking. It supports India's emergence as a global hub for manufacturing clean cooking devices for domestic and international markets, aligned with the Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India missions, as well as the objectives of the GoElectric and LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) campaigns launched by the Government of India.

Modern Energy Cooking Forum

The Modern Energy Cooking Forum (MECF), launched in 2022, serves as a key platform for dialogue among government, industry, academia, and civil society to accelerate the adoption of clean and electric cooking in India. Recognising that a holistic approach is essential, MECF discussions have focused on policy, consumer awareness, finance, and supply chains. Over successive editions, the forum has evolved from evidence-building to implementation strategies, highlighting the importance of gender inclusion and grassroots deployment. Moving forward, MECF's core priorities include developing carbon finance-based business models, scaling the Go Electric campaign at the state level, expanding eCooking adoption in institutions and commercial kitchens, and engaging with power regulators to ensure affordable electricity tariffs.

As a direct outcome of the MECS Programme and the efforts of the Modern Energy Cooking Forum, several organisations have initiated impactful clean cooking initiatives across India. GIZ has launched the Green Cooking Programme, providing technical assistance to six mandated states for implementing state-level green cooking strategies. Shell Foundation has undertaken a project to assess the impact of providing electric or clean cooking solutions to street food vendors on their income levels. Additionally, Finovista and MECS are proud to partner with FSR Global, the Delegation of the European Union to India, and UN Women on "The Energy Dozen" – a flagship initiative led by FSR Global aimed at advancing gender-inclusive energy access solutions. Additionally, IndianOil, in collaboration with Finovista, organised a workshop on "Catalysing Corporate Partnerships for Surya Nutan (Indoor Solar Cooking System)", aimed at leveraging policy support, carbon credits, CSR funds, and corporate partnerships to finance clean cooking projects, including Surya Nutan and expand their reach to underserved communities.

Modern Energy Cooking Forum 2025

In 2025, The Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) programme is conducting a comprehensive stocktake to assess the current state of modern energy cooking in India, mapping progress since 2020 and identifying strategic interventions for scaling clean cooking solutions.

This collaborative effort involves consultations with experienced stakeholders to highlight gaps, propose impactful solutions, and develop a coordinated roadmap to be implemented by 2030.

MECF 2025 will serve as a platform to review MECS's impact, facilitate the stocktake, and working towards a roadmap for India's Clean cooking sector effectively integrating eCooking into broader energy and climate policies. Discussions will decarbonising cooking sector, gender mainstreaming, state -level eCooking programmes, finance for clean cooking and demand side challenges and opportunities for scale-up for eCooking. A key highlight of the Forum will be the Innovation Pavallion – An exciting showcase of diverse technologies in clean cooking for different consumer segments in India. Live demonstrations of some of these technologies would also be available.

It's a day-long forum with panel discussions, cooking technology showcase & demonstration based on Modern fuels and sessions focused on research in Clean Cooking. The session flow and objectives of each session are outlined below:

Session Flow – Modern Energy Cooking Forum(4'th edition)
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0930 – 1000	Registration	
1000 – 1055	Inaugural Session	To set the tone of the MEC Forum
1055 – 1125	Innovation Pavilion – Technology Walk through & Tea Break	
1125– 1145	Highlights of the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) Programme in India	Overview of the Global and India Updates from MECS Programme on Electric Cooking.
1145 – 1230	Decarbonising India's Cooking Sector	The session will explore a comprehensive roadmap to decarbonise India's cooking sector by 2030, centered on a multi-fuel cleaner cooking stack approach. The discussion will focus on accelerated adoption of efficient electric cooking technologies—such as induction cookers, advanced electric pressure cookers, and infrared stoves—powered increasingly by India's expanding renewable electricity grid and rooftop solar initiative. Complementary solutions like biogas, bioethanol, solar, and hybrid cooking technologies will be examined for their roles in rural and off-grid contexts to enhance affordability and energy resilience. The session will highlight critical investments needed in electricity grid upgrades, behaviour change strategies to encourage load management and sustained use, and the inclusion of emerging biofuel and hydrogen blends as transitional and long-term pathways.
1230 – 1315	Women in Modern Energy Cooking (WMEC)	The Women in Modern Energy Cooking (WMEC) initiative foregrounds the <i>crucial role of women</i> in India's clean cooking transformation. This session spotlights pioneering efforts to mainstream gender across the clean cooking sector—championing strategies that empower women at every stage, from innovation and entrepreneurship to community leadership and policy. Discussion will highlight best practices and new approaches to gender mainstreaming—including targeted investments, workforce diversity, and female-centric distribution models. A focal point of this session would be “Energy Dozen” announcement—a flagship program by <i>FSR Global in partnership with UN Women, MECS Programme and Finovista</i> , showcasing 12 exceptional women who are transforming clean cooking through breakthrough technologies, policy leadership, and grassroots impact.
1315 – 1415	Lunch	

1415 – 1500	Unlocking pathways for state-specific clean cooking strategies	India's clean cooking transition is increasingly advancing at the state level, with diverse approaches tailored to local contexts, needs, and government priorities. This panel session will explore how state-level programmes can be designed and implemented to effectively electrify and modernize cooking across key segments—residential households, institutional kitchens, and commercial establishments—while aligning with broader state energy plans and sustainability goals Drawing on experiences and progress from different states the discussion will analyse the distinctive challenges and opportunities in each customer segment and how the states design an inclusive, multi-fuel strategies that reflects the state's energy capacities and infrastructure.
1500– 1545	Financing Clean Cooking	Financing clean cooking remains a critical pillar in India's and the world's journey to achieving universal access to modern, sustainable cooking solutions. This session will explore innovative financing mechanisms, investment trends, policy frameworks, and the role of major global institutions that are accelerating the transition from traditional fuels to clean energy cooking technologies. Key discussion points will cover funding strategies for large-scale clean cooking programs, highlighting the use of public-private investments, concessional and blended finance to reduce risks and promote growth; the role of major global institutions in providing financing, technical support, and results-based funding, the suitability and challenges of loan-based options such as microfinance and crowd-lending, including the growing role of carbon finance
1545 – 1630	Demand-Side Dynamics and Challenges in Scaling eCooking Adoption	This session will unpack the complex interplay of technology, affordability, consumer behaviour, and policy needed to unlock the full potential of eCooking—paving the way for a modern, sustainable, and energy-efficient cooking future in India. The session will address the critical demand-side issues and challenges of widespread adoption of eCooking in India across different market segments. Despite growing interest, there remains an urgent need for affordable energy efficient appliances that fit seamlessly into the traditional Indian kitchen, offering convenience and efficiency at scale. The session will also highlight the role of strategic awareness campaigns in driving demand growth, focusing on how targeted communications and behaviour change initiatives can encourage cooking during off-peak electricity hours, helping to balance grid loads and reduce costs.
1630 – 1645	Closing Remarks & Way Forward	
1645 – 1700	Networking Tea	