MECS Modern Energy Cooking Services

NITI Aayog

Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India

Manthan

EESL

Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet
GEAPP

MECS FORUM
Report 2025

MODERN ENERGY COOKING FORUM 2025 INDIA

4th Edition

Loughborough University

UK Government

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GeCCo

(In-country Partner-MECS)
Finovista

Partners:

Outreach: clasp

Knowledge: Chintan Research Foundation

ABOUT MODERN ENERGY COOKING FORUM

The Modern Energy Cooking Forum is an annual event that aims to intensify the cooperation among 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. You can look forward to interactive sessions, collaborative opportunities, and one-on-one meetings with experts. On the sidelines of the Modern Energy Cooking Forum, a technology showcase is consistently organized to present new and innovative clean cooking technologies. This includes eCooking technologies, solar cooking technologies, ethanol and methanol as alternative fuels, as well as robot-based and AI-based technologies. MECF serves as a comprehensive solution for all essential research, interventions, demonstrations, and dialogues in modern energy cooking.

OVERVIEW OF THE MECS PROGRAMME IN INDIA

Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) is an eleven-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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 4th edition of the Modern Energy Cooking Forum 2025 was organised by the MECS programme through its In-Country Partner Finovista. The Forum was supported by NITI Aayog, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Energy Efficiency Services Limited and The Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet. The Chintan Research Foundation (CRF) and CLASP were knowledge and outreach partners, respectively. The one-day forum witnessed insightful deliberations on strategies, technologies, financing models, and policy interventions required to accelerate India's clean cooking transition by 2030. An Innovation Pavilion was set up to create platform for showcasing the latest advancements in clean and modern cooking technologies. Parallel to the MECF 2025 panel discussions, a Special Session on Research in Clean Cooking was organised that highlighted the critical role of evidence in advancing sustainable cooking solutions.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Inaugural Session:

The Forum opened with remarks from Prof. Matthew Leach announcing the MECS programme's extension till 2030, followed by insights from BEE, EESL, TERI, and the British High Commission. Speakers highlighted India's leadership in advancing eCooking, focusing on efficient appliances, demand aggregation, and partnerships to drive large-scale clean cooking adoption.

Technology Showcase:

An Innovation Pavilion featured 17 manufacturers showcasing cutting-edge cooking technologies such as infrared cooktops, commercial induction, solar-based, and hydrogen-based technologies. Live demos enabled hands-on engagement and sensitisation, promoting collaboration opportunities between innovators, buyers, and policymakers.

Special Session on Research in eCooking:

The session highlighted the importance of research and data in scaling eCooking adoption. IISD highlighted how smarter subsidies and rooftop solar can accelerate household adoption, while PEEDA shared lessons from Nepal on the need for targeted subsidies and strong service networks. Finovista presented findings from multi-fuel controlled cooking experiments, and CLASP showcased its Global LEAP Awards initiative to promote innovation, appliance standards, and market-ready induction cookstoves.

INSIGHTS FROM PANEL DISCUSSION

Decarbonising clean cooking:
Discussions focused on shifting from biomass and LPG to electric and renewable-based cooking to meet India's 2070 net-zero goals. Experts highlighted the need for reliable grids, decentralised solar solutions, demand management, and behavioural change to make cooking a key part of India's decarbonisation strategy.

Unlocking pathways for state-specific clean cooking strategies:
State-focused strategies showcased successful institutional pilots like Anganwadis in Andhra Pradesh. Discussions stressed DISCOM engagement, user training, intuitive appliance design, and leveraging rooftop solar and storage. Kerala's collaboration with GGGI and GeCCo was highlighted as a model for state-level eCooking planning.

Women in Modern Energy Cooking:
The session explored women's central role in the clean cooking transition. It called for concessional finance, gender budgeting, and mentorship networks to empower women entrepreneurs. The 'Energy Dozen' initiative was launched to showcase and mentor women leaders in clean energy innovation.

Financing clean cooking:
Experts noted that achieving universal clean cooking access requires around USD 8 billion, which is significantly lower than any other sector. Blended finance, carbon credits, CSR, and microfinance were highlighted as key solutions. Results-based finance with digital MRV was seen as vital for scaling user adoption and ensuring transparency.

Demand Side dynamics and challenges in scaling eCooking adoption:
The session highlighted awareness campaigns, financial incentives, and public-private partnerships as critical to scaling adoption. Reliable electricity, time-of-use tariffs, rooftop solar, and user training were stressed. Manufacturers emphasised affordability, culturally aligned design, and pilot demonstrations to build trust.

KEY OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Forum underscored India's readiness to lead global eCooking transitions through innovation, partnerships, and finance. It called for coordinated national campaigns, strong state-level programmes, and inclusion of women entrepreneurs. Stakeholders agreed that eCooking is central to achieving India's clean energy and climate goals.

AGENDA

REGISTRATIONS AND NETWORKING TEA 09:30 – 10:00

Inaugural Session 10:00 – 10:55

OPENING REMARKS

- **Prof Matthew Leach**, Professor of Energy and Environmental Systems, MECS Programme Lead for Clean Energy, Finance and Data Analysis

SPECIAL REMARKS

- **Ms Archana Chauhan**, Head of Energy Sector Reforms, British High Commission (BHC) India
- **Shri Milind Bhikanrao Deore**, Secretary, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Govt of India
- **Shri Akhilesh Kumar Dixit**, Chief Executive Officer, Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)
- **Dr Vibha Dhawan**, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

SPECIAL ADDRESS AND VOTE OF THANKS

- **Shri Vimal Kumar**, MECS Programme India Lead and Co-Founder, Finovista

INNOVATION PAVILION – TECHNOLOGY WALK THROUGH & NETWORKING TEA 10:55 – 11:25

Highlights of the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) Programme in India 11:25 – 12:00

- **Dr Nick Rousseau**, International Liaison Manager, MECS Programme
- **Ms Sheetal Rastogi**, Director & Co-Founder, Finovista
- **Ms Neha Dhingra**, Director, India, CLASP

Panel Discussion: Decarbonising India's Cooking Sector 12:00 – 12:45

- **Moderator: Dr Debajit Palit**, Centre Head - Centre for Climate Change and Energy Transition, Chintan Research Foundation
- **Shri Alok Kumar**, Director General, All India DISCOM Association and Former Secretary, Ministry of Power (MoP), Govt of India
- **Shri Jeevan Kumar Jethani**, Senior Director/Scientist-F, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), Govt of India
- **Dr Umish Srivastava**, Executive Director (R&D), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)
- **Ms Nidhi Sarin**, Director - Energy Transitions, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)

Panel Discussion: Unlocking pathways for state-specific clean cooking strategies — 12:45 – 13:30

- **Moderator: Shri Soumya Prasad Garnaik,** India Country Head, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
- **Dr Abhishek Sharma**, Director, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Govt of India
- **Dr R Harikumar,** Director, Energy Management Centre (EMC), Kerala
- **Shri Animesh Mishra**, CGM and Head Sales & PR, Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)
- **Ms Neha Dhingra**, Director, India, CLASP

LUNCH — 13:30 – 14:30

Panel Discussion: Women in Modern Energy Cooking (WMEC) — 14:30 – 15:15

- **Moderator: Ms Sheetal Rastogi**, Director & Co-Founder, Finovista
- **Shri Nishant Singh,** Senior Advisor, British High Commission (BHC) India
- **Ms Suhela Khan**, Country Programme Manager- Women's Economic Empowerment, UN Women
- **Shri Shankha Lahiri**, Business Development Adviser (Micro-entrepreneur), Shell Foundation
- **Ms Swetha Ravi Kumar**, Executive Director, FSR Global
- **Shri Ashish Jindal**, Senior Officer - India, Sustainable Energy for All (SE for All)

Launch of Energy Dozen in Clean Cooking- Representative/s FSR Global, UN Women, MECS Programme and Finovista

Panel Discussion: Financing Clean Cooking — 15:15 – 16:00

- **Moderator: Shri Vimal Kumar,** MECS Programme India Lead and Co-Founder, Finovista
- **Shri Satya Prakash Choubey**, Director - Demand Jobs & Livelihood, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)
- **Shri Gaurav Chakraverty**, Chief Growth and Marketing Officer, MicroEnergy Credits
- **Shri Digvijay Sandhu**, Senior Market Engagement Manager, Digital Utilities, GSMA
- **Shri Atul Mittal**, Director-Asia, Sistema.bio
- **Shri Jitesh Kumar**, Project Leader, GIZ India

Panel Discussion: Demand-side Dynamics and Challenges in Scaling eCooking Adoption — 16:00 – 16:45

- **Moderator: Dr Nick Rousseau**, International Liaison Manager, MECS Programme
- **Shri Adesh Saxena**, General Manager and Head NECP, Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)
- **Shri Abhimanyu Sahu**, Director - Access to Energy, Schneider Electric Pvt Ltd
- **Shri Saurabh Srivastava**, Vice President Sales & Marketing, EPACK Durable Limited
- **Chef Sanjeeb Ghatak**, Indian Federation of Culinary Association (IFCA)
- **Ms Kavita Tiwari**, International Lead, Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (O/o PSA) to the Govt of India
- **Shri Surendra Atchyam**, Senior Manager, BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd (BSES)

Closing Remarks & Way Forward 16:45 – 17:00

NETWORKING TEA 17:00 ONWARDS

Exhibitions and Demonstrations 09:30 – 17:00

AGENDA OF THE SPECIAL SESSION

REGISTRATIONS AND NETWORKING TEA 13:30 – 14:30

Opening Remarks 14:30 – 14:35

- **Dr Nick Rousseau,** International Liaison Manager, MECS Programme
- **Shri Krishna Kumar Sinha**, Advisor, Finovista

Electrifying Cooking Through Smarter Subsidies and Rooftop Solar 14:35 – 15:15

- **Presented by: International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)**
- **Shri Sunil Mani,** Policy Advisor, IISD

Understanding the diffusion of e-cooking solutions for micro enterprises in mountain regions of Nepal: A crucial component of Nepal's energy transition 15:15 - 16:00

- **Presented by: People, Energy & Environment Development Association (PEEDA)**
- **Shri Biraj Gautam,** CEO, PEEDA

Multi-Fuel Study: India

16:00 - 16:45

- **Presented by: Finovista**
- **Ms Sheetal Rastogi,** Co-founder, Finovista
- **Ms Neh Satsangi,** Senior Analyst, Finovista

Global Leap Awards for Induction Cookstoves

16:45 - 17:30

- **Presented by: CLASP**
- **Ms Sumedha Awasthy,** Senior Associate, CLASP
- **Shri Jatin Mathur**, Associate, CLASP

SPEAKER BYTES

PROFESSOR MATTHEW LEACH

Professor of Energy and Environmental Systems, MECS Programme Lead for Clean Energy, Finance and Data Analysis, Modern Energy Cooking Services

With MECS extended to 2030, the programme is uniting clean cooking and energy access to unlock carbon finance opportunities, strengthen grid integration, and scale national demonstrators for real-world eCooking impact.

SHRI MILIND BHIKANRAO DEORE

Secretary, BEE

BEE is promoting large-scale electrification through the Go Electric campaign, under which almost all states are actively advancing both eCooking and electric mobility initiatives across the domestic sector.

SHRI AKHILESH KUMAR DIXIT

CEO, EESL

Replacing LPG and firewood with induction cooking would empower women, reduce environmental pressures, and utilise India's growing surplus renewable power. Scaling up eCooking through aggregated procurement and state partnerships can make it both affordable and transformative

DR VIBHA DHAWAN

Director General of TERI

Clean cooking is about dignity, equity, and empowerment, transforming kitchens into healthier, sustainable spaces where women's time and wellbeing are valued at the centre of India's clean energy transition

MS ARCHANA CHAUHAN

Head of Energy Sector Reforms, British High Commission (BHC) India

Strategic collaboration between India and the UK is accelerating modern, sustainable cooking access while advancing SDG7 and net-zero goals.

SHRI VIMAL KUMAR

MECS India Lead & Co-Founder, Finovista

The clean cooking transition must put users first, ensuring efficient and affordable solutions reach millions of households across India and beyond. By driving demand aggregation and domestic manufacturing, we can scale modern eCooking just as India did with LEDs and EVs

SPEAKER BYTES

DR NICK ROUSSEAU

International Liaison Manager, MECS Programme

Innovation through multi-hob and hybrid cooking technologies, supported by pilot programmes and state-level eCooking preparedness dashboards, will help align clean cooking adoption with national energy goals and enable data-driven progress tracking across states and DISCOMs.

MS NEHA DHINGRA

Director, India, CLASP

CLASP is proud to join MECS, bringing our energy efficiency expertise to shape policies, standards, and awareness for accelerating electric cooking in India.

DR DEBAJIT PALIT

Centre Head - Centre for Climate Change and Energy Transition, Chintan Research Foundation

India's past cooking programs, ranging from improved biomass stoves to LPG and Go Electric, have focused mainly on reducing local pollution but not on decarbonising the cooking sector.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR

Director General, All India DISCOM Association and Former Secretary, Ministry of Power (MoP), Govt of India

India needs clear policy direction to define how electric cooking fits within the broader energy framework alongside ongoing PNG investments. Electric cooking must create economic value for both consumers and DISCOMs, with tariffs that reflect real costs to ensure a balanced transition.

SHRI JEEVAN KUMAR JETHANI

Senior Director/Scientist-F, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), Govt of India

Renewable energy with storage offers a viable path for rural eCooking, but challenges remain around grid strength, load capacity, and consumption timing. MNRE is working toward integrating solar and storage solutions to make clean, reliable cooking access possible even in rural areas.

MS NIDHI SARIN

Director - Energy Transitions, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)

The role of solar and storage integration in enabling reliable electric cooking, noting that while GEAPP's current work focuses on utility-scale and behind-the-meter storage, innovative models can support diverse users from households to Anganwadis and schools.

SPEAKER BYTES

DR UMISH SRIVASTAVA

Executive Director (R&D), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)

The Surya Nutan solar cooker, developed by IOCL, is now used in over 1,500 households across India. Cost and behavioural barriers remain key hurdles to wider adoption despite its three-year payback period and proven performance, as many users still prefer traditional fuels.

SHRI SOUMYA PRASAD GARNAIK

India Country Head, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

Electric cooking is gaining strong acceptance at the community level, especially through Anganwadi initiatives, showing clear potential for scale-up into a programmatic model. The transition should focus on building a market-driven ecosystem that inspires participation, ownership, and sustainable adoption rather than positioning it as a cheaper alternative.

DR R HARIKUMAR

Director, Energy Management Centre (EMC), Kerala

While electric cooking offers strong institutional benefits, challenges like peak load strain, high residential tariffs, and user behaviour persist. The transition must focus on reliability, comfort, and sustainability rather than cost alone, with distributed solar and behind-the-meter storage offering pathways for scalable adoption.

SHRI ANIMESH MISHRA

CGM and Head Sales & PR, Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)

EESL is scaling up electric cooking through the National Electric Cooking Program, integrating digital platforms like EESLmart.in and grassroots models such as Urjaveer. With deployments across thousands of Anganwadis and pilots in hospitals and industries, the initiative is building a nationwide ecosystem for affordable and accessible eCooking

MS SHEETAL RASTOGI

Director & Co-Founder, Finovista

Under the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) program, Finovista is advancing gender mainstreaming through initiatives such as partnerships with UPSRLM and Jeevika to train women micro-entrepreneurs on electric cooking devices, enabling them as local demonstrators and change agents. Finovista has also launched the Women in Modern Energy Cooking initiative and collaborative efforts like Energy Dozens with FSR Global and UN Women to strengthen women's participation, leadership, and entrepreneurship in the clean energy transition.

SHRI NISHANT SINGH

Senior Advisor, British High Commission (BHC) India

Gender should be viewed not just as for women, but with women and led by women. Policies must integrate gender impact assessments, strengthen financial inclusion, and involve women in product design to ensure adoption. Progress should be measured through women's agency, time savings, health gains, and participation across entrepreneurship and technical roles.

SPEAKER BYTES

MS SUHELA KHAN

Country Programme Manager – Women's Economic Empowerment, UN Women

We must strengthen women-led enterprises through better access to markets, finance, and procurement opportunities to drive inclusive clean energy transitions.

SHRI SHANKHA LAHIRI

Business Development Adviser (Micro-entrepreneur), Shell Foundation

We ensure women are co-designers, not just end users, because when women help design solutions, products improve and adoption increases. We recognise women as market enablers, innovators, and entrepreneurs in clean cooking.

MS SWETHA RAVI KUMAR

Executive Director, FSR Global

It is essential to adopt a multi-pronged approach to empower women entrepreneurs in clean cooking, starting bottom up by helping them package ideas for investors through training, coaching, and peer inspiration, and top down by taking gender budgeting seriously.

SHRI ASHISH JINDAL

Senior Officer – India, Sustainable Energy for All (SE for ALL)

We work on advancing energy access, efficiency, and renewables under SDG 7. Our experience shows that when women lead, clean cooking transitions accelerate, as seen in our Tanzania pilots and STEM mentorship programmes.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH CHOUBEY

Director - Demand Jobs & Livelihood, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)

Financing strategies are structured across four stages—conceptualisation, demonstration, validation, and scaling. With only a few Indian households owning eCooking stoves and far fewer using them regularly, behaviour change remains a key challenge alongside finance.

SHRI GAURAV CHAKRAVERTY

Chief Growth and Marketing Officer, MicroEnergy Credits

The focus is on a client-centric financing model built around the four A's — awareness, appropriateness, availability, and access.

SPEAKER BYTES

SHRI JITESH KUMAR

Project Director, GIZ India

By promoting renewable energy integration and enabling rural households to shift toward eCooking, GIZ aims to make clean cooking a central part of state-level development and energy planning.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SANDHU

Senior Market Engagement Manager, Digital Utilities, GSMA

There is a need to create pooled first-loss guarantees, blended finance facilities, and carbon offtake agreements to stabilize revenues and attract investment.

SHRI ATUL MITTAL

Director Growth- South Asia, Sistema.bio

To make biogas viable to the consumers, we blend three sources of support: government subsidies, CSR and foundation grants, and carbon finance, which now covers most of the plant's cost.

SHRI SURENDRA ATCHYAM

Senior Manager, BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd

DISCOMs can support the shift through policy measures similar to EV tariffs, introducing time-of-use tariffs to encourage cooking during non-peak hours. At the same time, manufacturers should be supported to produce energy-efficient cooking devices.

SHRI SAURABH SRIVASTAVA

Vice President Sales & Marketing, EPACK Durable Limited

The focus should be on local sourcing and reducing import dependence that enables better supply chain resilience and faster adaptability to market needs.

SHRI ABHIMANYU SAHU

Director - Access to Energy, Schneider Electric Pvt Ltd

Schools and Anganwadis are the key community hubs to drive eCooking adoption and linking CSR support with hybrid solar systems under PM Surya Ghar can help scale eCooking sustainably across rural India.

SPEAKER BYTES

SHRI ADESH SAXENA

General Manager and Head NECP, Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)

We identified Anganwadi Kendras as the ideal starting point for promoting clean cooking and introduced 11,400 induction cookstoves across Andhra Pradesh with strong support from the state government. We built a robust logistics and after-sales framework to ensure smooth delivery and maintenance, and are now expanding the initiative to schools, health centres, and panchayats to make clean cooking accessible and scalable across India.

MS KAVITA TIWARI

International Lead, Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (O/o PSA) to the Govt of India

True adoption in rural areas cannot be achieved through one-time CSR or training initiatives alone. People embrace new technologies only when they see tangible benefits within their own community, and that is the approach for implementation.

CHEF SANJEEB GHATAK

Indian Federation of Culinary Association (IFCA)

If someone can operate a smartphone, they can easily learn eCooking. In our commercial kitchens, technology has transformed efficiency, where a lamb dish that once took two and a half hours now cooks perfectly in just 45 minutes.

INAUGURAL SESSION

The inaugural session featured opening remarks by Prof. Matthew Leach, MECS Programme, followed by special addresses from Shri Milind Bhikanrao Deore, Secretary, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE); Shri Akhilesh Kumar Dixit, CEO, EESL; Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI, and Ms Archana Chauhan, Head of Energy Sector Reforms, British High Commission (BHC) India and Shri Vimal Kumar, MECS India Lead & Co-founder, Finovista, delivered the vote of thanks, highlighting India's leadership role in global clean cooking innovation.

PROF MATTHEW LEACH, PROFESSOR OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS, MECS PROGRAMME LEAD FOR CLEAN ENERGY, FINANCE AND DATA ANALYSIS

Professor Matthew Leach, MECS Programme, opened his remarks by setting the global context for modern energy cooking. He announced that the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) programme, fully funded by the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), has been extended for a further five years until 2030. This extension ensures continued support for accelerating the transition from polluting biomass fuels towards clean and modern cooking solutions. He emphasised MECS' unique focus on bridging the traditionally separate domains of clean cooking access and energy access, recognising their potential for mutual reinforcement.

He further highlighted MECS' diverse workstreams, ranging from technical studies and system-level analyses to the development of national and international roadmaps, as well as the popular country-specific e-cookbooks that integrate cultural cooking practices. With the programme's extension, CLASP joins MECS, alongside Loughborough University and ESMAP, and they will lead a new venture building workstream. Professor Leach also underscored the importance of partnerships, acknowledging the leadership of Finovista in India. Additionally, he spoke of "country demonstrators" funded by British High Commissions, with current examples in Uganda and Tanzania, with the potential for similar initiatives emerging in additional countries.

Turning to the future, Professor Leach pointed to the critical question of grid integration as e-cooking scales up. He announced the launch of a new modelling tool to help assess national grid impacts, presenting early findings from Kenya that show electric cooking can smooth demand curves and improve asset utilisation. He also outlined progress in carbon and impact markets, particularly the expansion of the metered and measured methodology into voluntary and compliance carbon markets, with potential inclusion under Article 6. A new report[1] on black carbon, released just days prior, was presented as a first draft methodology to capture its climate and health impacts in carbon credit systems. These innovations, alongside digital MRV platforms, are designed to unlock both climate finance and broader SDG benefits.

Prof. Matt explained that the Global E-Cooking Coalition (GeCCo), an international movement to catalyse electric cooking adoption counts 36 large-scale organisations among its members, alongside its four founding partners, with no membership fees and a simple requirement of commitment to advancing electric cooking. Several Indian organisations have already joined, and at the state level, Kerala has recently embarked on a readiness assessment with GeCCo and GGGI through the Energy Management Centre. He highlighted a wave of fresh international announcements[2] made during New York Climate Week, including a $1 million CCAC grant for accelerating e-cooking in Africa and South Asia, a $2 million CCAC challenge fund now open for bids, and new financial commitments from AFD, AFDB, and CIFF worth several hundred million dollars towards clean cooking and energy access in institutions. Private sector interest is also accelerating, with ATEC raising $15.5 million to expand smart cookstove networks and BURN committing to distribute nearly half a million appliances across sub-Saharan Africa. These developments, he noted, mark a shift from small pilots to truly large-scale rollouts, reflecting the growing momentum for e-cooking internationally, with India well positioned to drive impact at scale.

[1] https://mecs.org.uk/blog/calculating-black-carbon-emission-reductions-from-transitions-to-modern-energy-cooking/
[2] https://www.lboro.ac.uk/research/steer/news/united-nations-general-assembly-climate-week-nyc/

SHRI MILIND BHIKANRAO DEORE, SECRETARY, BEE

Secretary, BEE, expressed his appreciation for the Modern Energy Cooking Forum, noting that this was his fourth time attending the event. He highlighted how, over successive editions, he has observed the growing zeal and scale with which the forum has been organised. On behalf of BEE, he commended MECS and Finovista for their consistent efforts and dedication since 2019 in advancing the agenda of e-cooking in India. He emphasised that these initiatives have created strong momentum in the sector, particularly by engaging manufacturers in meaningful dialogue and action.

He highlighted BEE's mandate to design policies and programmes that reduce the energy intensity of India's economy, noting the Bureau's significant work over the last two decades across buildings, appliances, industry, and demand-side management, with strong contributions from partners such as EESL. He stressed that cooking remains a critical area for India's energy security, still dominated by biomass, LPG, and kerosene, while electric cooking accounts for only a small share. Transitioning to energy-efficient e-cooking solutions such as induction cooktops, infrared stoves, and electric pressure cookers will not only reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions but also improve women's health and support India's NDC and net-zero targets.

He pointed out that electricity today makes up 18–20% of India's final energy consumption, with targets to raise this to 25–30% by 2030, 40–45% by 2050, and 55–60% by 2070. Alongside electric vehicles, heat pumps, and industrial electrification, e-cooking is a strategic focus area to meet these electrification goals. Shri Deore emphasised BEE's central role in ensuring that only energy-efficient appliances are promoted in this transition, underlining the importance of the Standards and Labelling Programme. Launched in 2007–08, the programme has become one of the largest of its kind globally, covering more than 41 appliances, 16 mandatory and the rest voluntary. He noted that this framework will be key to ensuring quality, consumer trust, and the scale-up of modern energy cooking solutions. He noted that BEE's Standards & Labelling Programme, one of the largest globally, now covers induction cooktops and electric rice cookers, with LPG stoves set to move from voluntary to mandatory labelling. With over 3,700 brands and 40,000 models registered, the programme ensures households adopt energy-efficient appliances without compromising affordability or grid stability. BEE is promoting large-scale electrification through the Go Electric campaign, under which almost all states are actively advancing both e-cooking and electric mobility initiatives across the domestic sector. While challenges such as high upfront costs, cultural cooking preferences, awareness gaps, and cookware compatibility remain, Shri Deore emphasised that solutions such as demand aggregation models and national campaigns are underway. He reaffirmed BEE's commitment to working with manufacturers and partners to scale e-cooking as a pillar of energy security, gender empowerment, health improvement, and climate change mitigation.

SHRI AKHILESH KUMAR DIXIT, CEO, EESL

CEO, EESL, expressed gratitude to MECF and highlighted EESL's transformational role in energy efficiency and social impact through large-scale initiatives such as the distribution of over 32 crore LED bulbs and the replacement of 2 crore streetlights, which have virtually eliminated sodium lamps from Indian streets. He noted that EESL, as a PSU, has strong government-to-government ties, enabling it to integrate e-cooking promotion into existing engagements with state departments such as women and rural development.

Emphasising demand aggregation as a key strategy to reduce costs, similar to the success of the UJALA programme, where LED bulb prices fell drastically, he underlined EESL's role in marketing, advocacy, and pushing for induction cooktops to be included in welfare schemes like Anganwadis. Shri Dixit stressed that scaling up e-cooking through aggregated procurement and state partnerships can make it both affordable and transformative, not just for India but potentially for Africa and other regions.

He noted that with reliable electricity available across the country 24 hours in urban areas and 18–23 hours in rural areas, e-cooking is both feasible and affordable, while also aligning with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. He stressed that replacing LPG and firewood with induction cooking would empower women, reduce environmental pressures, and utilise India's growing surplus renewable power. Calling for stronger engagement with NITI Aayog and policymakers, he suggested preparing comprehensive Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) that capture not only power aspects but also health, climate, and social benefits. He assured that EESL stands ready to advocate for and scale induction cookers, just as it did with LEDs and electric vehicles, and expressed confidence that this transition can become the next nationwide success story.

DR VIBHA DHAWAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL, TERI

Director General of TERI, highlighted that while electric cooking has been mainstreamed in developed countries for decades, India is now charting its own roadmap through programmes like MECS, launched in 2020 with UKAID support, which has demonstrated the viability, cost-effectiveness, and user satisfaction of modern energy cooking solutions. She noted that MECS aligns with India's flagship missions such as Atmanirbhar Bharat, Made in India, Go Electric, and LiFE, positioning the country as a hub for clean cooking innovation. Reflecting on TERI's founding vision in 1974, she emphasised that energy has always been a limiting factor for development and stressed the importance of generating clean electricity through renewables like solar. She described the kitchen not merely as a domestic space but as a climate, health, and empowerment space, underscoring how women in rural and remote areas still spend significant time collecting firewood, time that could otherwise be used productively. She also cautioned about the health risks of indoor air pollution from traditional cooking, reaffirming TERI's commitment to advancing clean cooking as part of its broader mission.

Dr Vibha Dhawan concluded by emphasising that clean cooking must be viewed not only as a technological solution but as a matter of dignity, equity, and sustainability. She underscored the importance of culturally sensitive, community-driven interventions while calling for reliable electricity supply, innovative sectoral pilots, such as with the armed forces and mechanisms like carbon credits to accelerate adoption. Acknowledging the challenges of affordability, reliability, and infrastructure, she remained optimistic that India's growing surplus in solar energy can drive this transformation. She closed with a powerful reminder that cooking lies at the heart of every household, and ensuring dignified, safe, and sustainable cooking for women must be at the centre of clean energy transitions.

MS ARCHANA CHAUHAN, HEAD OF ENERGY SECTOR REFORMS, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION (BHC) INDIA

Head of Energy Sector Reforms, British High Commission (BHC) India, noted India's significant achievement in reaching 50% of energy capacity from non-fossil fuels, five years ahead of the 2030 target, contributing to its net-zero by 2070 goal. She also highlighted the UK's efforts toward net zero by 2050 through initiatives such as doubling offshore wind, quadrupling solar, and establishing Great British Energy, which is a publicly owned company, as well as the launch of the Global Clean Power Alliance to support international partners in scaling renewable energy capacity.

Ms Chauhan emphasised the strong bilateral energy partnership between India and the UK, recently reaffirmed during Prime Minister Modi's visit to the UK with the signing of UK-India Vision 2035. She mentioned that clean cooking is a shared priority for both countries, aligned with SDG 7 for universal access to modern energy by 2030. She praised the UK's support of the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) program, which has driven policy development, entrepreneurship, and deployment of clean cooking solutions in India and globally.

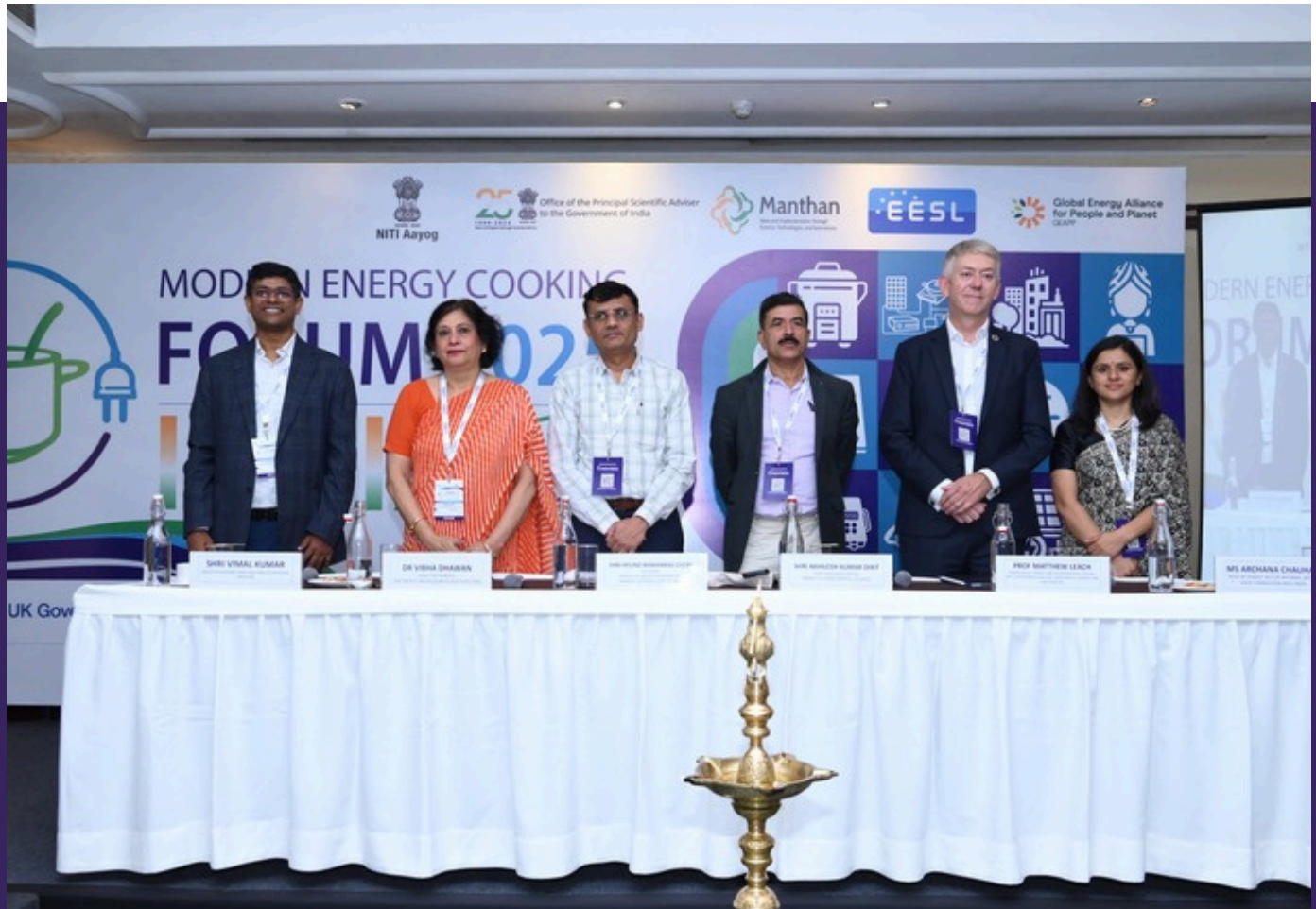
Ms Chauhan highlighted that the MECS program demonstrates how strategic collaboration can advance scalable solutions that promote health, gender equity, and climate resilience. She noted that the forum provides an important platform to reflect on progress, identify gaps, and shape future actions for clean cooking adoption. She concluded by reaffirming that the UK and India will continue to deepen collaboration, leveraging initiatives like MECS to scale clean cooking solutions worldwide, and expressed her anticipation for the forum's outcomes and continued partnership with stakeholders to drive innovation, sustainability, and equity in the energy transition.

SHRI VIMAL KUMAR, MECS INDIA LEAD & CO-FOUNDER, FINOVISTA

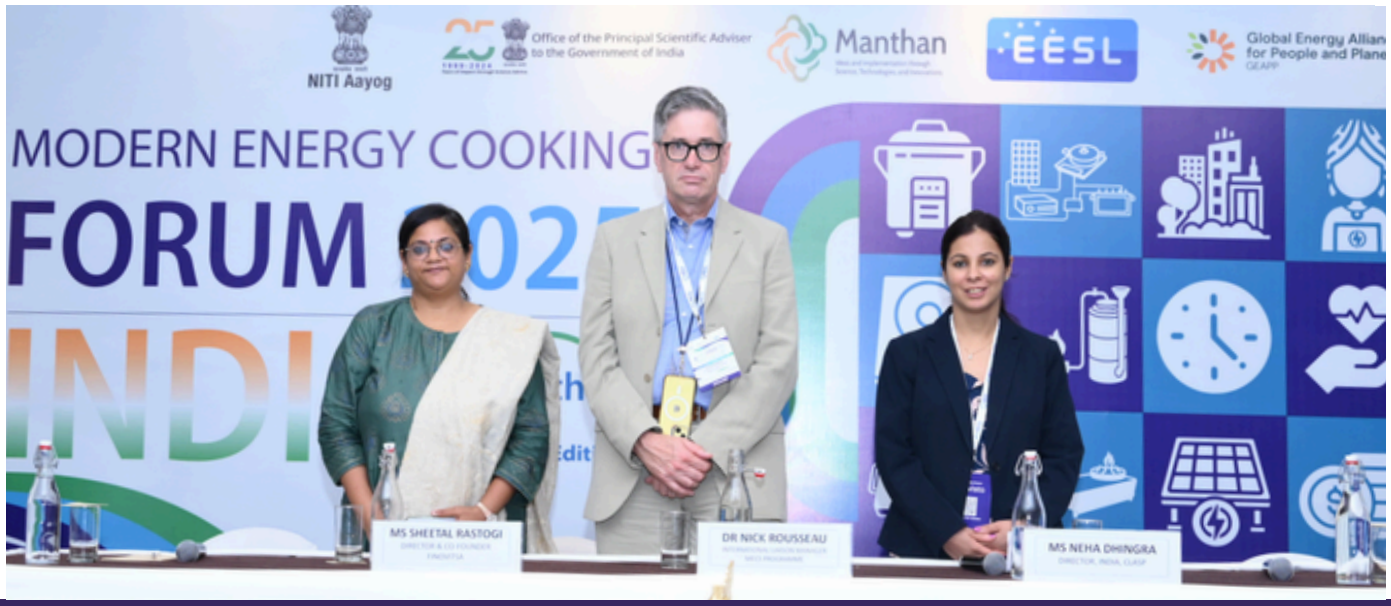
MECS India Lead & Co-founder, Finovista, expressed his gratitude towards the panellists for their participation in the forum and their remarks. He emphasised that the clean cooking transition is not solely about devices or technological innovations, but must focus on the end users, ensuring that efficiency and affordability are central to adoption. He highlighted the role of energy efficiency in reducing costs for DISCOMs, while also ensuring consumers have clarity in choosing devices, drawing a parallel to India's well-established BEE star rating system for appliances. He stressed the need for a national-level awareness program to educate households on the benefits of modern energy cooking, noting that large-scale initiatives are essential given India's 350 million households and Africa's comparable population scale. Shri Kumar also recognised the role of EESL in facilitating bulk procurement, reducing costs, and easing government access to devices, while ensuring that at least 50% of the components are domestically manufactured, aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

He drew comparisons to the early growth of electric mobility in India, noting that challenges related to technology and adoption could similarly be addressed in the cooking sector by identifying early adopters, fostering industry promotion, and encouraging innovation. Shri Kumar highlighted the importance of women's empowerment, as women remain primary users of cooking devices, and stressed that technologies must be developed with their needs in mind. He also emphasised the value of institutional and commercial cooking solutions in alleviating pressure on electricity supply, particularly during peak demand periods, while enabling broader household-level adoption.

Shri Kumar further outlined initiatives under the MECS programme and partnerships with the O/o PSA and NABARD, including the establishment of RuTAGe Smart Village Centres in Gaya. These centres serve as platforms to showcase clean cooking devices, provide user training, and enable local repair services during warranty periods, ensuring sustainability and user confidence. He concluded by acknowledging the hard work of the team in setting up these initiatives, noting that technology demonstrations and site visits will further strengthen engagement with manufacturers, users, and other stakeholders, supporting the scale-up of clean cooking solutions across India and beyond.



HIGHLIGHTS OF MECS IN INDIA



DR NICK ROUSSEAU, INTERNATIONAL LIAISON MANAGER, MECS PROGRAMME

MECS International Liaison Manager, explained that MECS is conducting a Stocktake during 2025 following 5 years working with partners in India and given its extension to 2030.The aim is to build a well evidenced understanding of the state of eCooking in India and identify key trends and challenges that can shape the next set of interventions that will substantially accelerate adoption. He referred to two reports[3],[4] reflecting the understanding collected to date and a review of what factors can enable communities to adopt eCooking.

He emphasised the importance of developing a comprehensive, data-driven model to assess the value of India's transition to electric cooking. He highlighted the potential of extending rooftop solar schemes to support e-cooking, noting the need to understand current energy usage, potential costs and savings for households, and the implications for DISCOMs. He stressed that successful implementation requires a holistic approach, integrating domestic, institutional, and commercial cooking, alongside solar PV and storage solutions, demand-side management, and smart scheduling to optimise energy use and reduce peak load pressure. He further underscored that this transition goes beyond technology, encompassing behavioural change, education, health promotion, and women's empowerment, which can create synergies and reduce the overall costs of programmes. He also clarified the concept of a "clean stack," where electric cooking complements LPG use to significantly reduce reliance on biomass, providing cleaner kitchens and tangible environmental benefits.

He also highlighted the role of innovation in cooking devices, pointing to multi-hob and hybrid technologies that cater to the diversity of Indian cooking needs and improve accessibility.

[3] https://finovista.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/INTRODUCING-eCOOKING-in-INDIA.pdf
[4] https://finovista.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Status-of-eCooking-in-India.pdf

Dr Rousseau addressed the need for pilot programmes and the alignment of initiatives with broader national targets, noting the evolving energy grid, rising electricity demand, and the RDSS programme's support for DISCOM infrastructure and smart management. He discussed the potential for new data sources, including updated censuses and baseline studies, to inform programme design. Finally, he introduced the concept of state-level electric cooking preparedness dashboards, modelled on electric mobility initiatives, as a tool for DISCOMs, states, and communities to compare progress, share best practices, and inform decision-making for the accelerated adoption of clean cooking solutions.

MS SHEETAL RASTOGI, DIRECTOR & CO-FOUNDER, FINOVISTA

Director & Co-Founder from Finovista provided a detailed overview of India's clean cooking landscape, highlighting both achievements and ongoing challenges. Despite significant progress in electrification, solarisation, and LPG/PNG adoption, the national average for clean cooking penetration stands at 63.5%, with 14 states below this benchmark and some as low as 31%. She emphasised the government's supportive role through initiatives such as the GoElectric campaign, NECP programme, and GST reforms benefiting solar cooking and cookware. Under the MECS programme, Finovista has compiled a policy compendium detailing 16 policies, identifying gaps, mapping eligibility, and providing guidance on accessing benefits. Ms Rastogi also highlighted MECS's holistic "jigsaw" approach to clean cooking, integrating research to support policy, awareness generation, technology promotion, capacity building, and supply chain strengthening, as reflected in the diverse innovations showcased by manufacturers such as IOCL, including induction and infrared cooktops tailored to Indian cooking needs.

Ms Rastogi further elaborated on Finovista's research and practical demonstrations to address adoption barriers, noting pilot studies in Delhi and Pune that explored device efficiency, cookware compatibility, kitchen retrofitting, and user behaviour. Key insights included energy savings of up to 40% using electric cooking appliances, faster cooking times, reduced heat stress, and ease of use for households, particularly in low-income, single-room urban settings. She also highlighted initiatives targeting women and children, such as the Women in Modern Energy Cooking programme and educational outreach via the Dr Binox YouTube channel, which has reached over half a million viewers. Additionally, Ms Rastogi referenced ongoing collaborations with organisations such as UN Women, FSR Global, GIZ, Shell Foundation, and NABARD to drive state-level clean cooking programmes, electrification of institutional kitchens, and support for income-generating applications of electric cooking, reinforcing MECS's commitment to a multi-dimensional, inclusive, and scalable transition to modern energy cooking in India.

MS NEHA DHINGRA, DIRECTOR, INDIA, CLASP

Director, India, from CLASP, expressed excitement about joining MECS as a partner, bringing CLASP's extensive expertise in appliance energy efficiency to the clean cooking sector. She outlined their focus on market-shaping activities in India, including supporting policymakers and standards bodies in developing national policies, energy efficiency standards, adoption and procurement guidelines, providing appliance performance data to build consumer confidence, and running awareness campaigns to highlight cost savings, bust myths about electric cooking, and promote air quality improvements. She also noted India's vibrant e-cooking ecosystem and highlighted opportunities for companies to expand both domestically and internationally through CLASP-led initiatives, emphasising their commitment to complement existing efforts, fill gaps, and collaborate with partners to advance the transition to electric cooking.

THE FORUM'S SESSIONS ADDRESSED CRITICAL THEMES

1. DECARBONISING INDIA'S COOKING SECTOR

The session was moderated by **Dr Debajit Palit**, Centre Head - Centre for Climate Change and Energy Transition, Chintan Research Foundation. The panellists were **Shri Alok Kumar**, Director General, All India DISCOM Association and Former Secretary, Ministry of Power (MoP), Govt of India, Shri Jeevan Kumar Jethani, Senior Director/Scientist-F, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), Govt of India, **Dr Umish Srivastava**, Executive Director (R&D), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), **Ms Nidhi Sarin**, Director - Energy Transitions, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)

The session on decarbonising the cooking sector was informed by a paper[5] published by the CRF in partnership with MECS highlighted the critical need to expand India's focus beyond local pollution from cooking fuels to also address greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in line with the country's 2070 net-zero target. While India has implemented several clean cooking initiatives, including the LPG cooking programme, improved biomass stoves, and some early efforts under the "Go Electric" campaign, the sector remains underexplored in terms of decarbonisation. Globally, the cooking sector contributes just under 3% of total GHG emissions, a figure comparable to emissions from the airline and shipping sectors. However, while the latter are heavily regulated and funded for decarbonisation despite being harder to abate, the cooking sector, being a low-hanging fruit, has received limited attention and funding, yet presents significant opportunities for impact.

The discussion emphasised that electric cooking is the primary pathway for decarbonising the sector, but its successful adoption depends on multiple factors, including the availability of clean and renewable electricity, grid reliability, and cost-effective solutions for consumers and utilities. Distribution companies face specific challenges in integrating electric cooking into the grid. Cooking demand peaks occur outside solar hours, typically in the early morning and evening, which increases reliance on costlier non-solar power and creates additional network and system costs. Urban areas, with relatively higher reliability and better average billing rates, are considered more suitable for the initial rollout of electric cooking. In contrast, rural areas present multiple challenges, including lower reliability, lower tariff recovery, and weaker infrastructure, making them a more complex segment for scaling electric cooking. Time-of-day tariffs and reflecting the true cost to serve in pricing are essential measures for ensuring both cost recovery and demand management.

[5] https://finovista27-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/finovista1_finovista27_onmicrosoft_com/EXlwTaUP4zNMr4fxoj70M7EBRQScBGneyAc93Ro4ghgAbA?e=V8mfHu

Renewable energy technologies, particularly decentralised options such as solar and biogas, were identified as crucial for complementing grid-based electric cooking, especially in rural areas. Decentralised renewable energy solutions, when paired with storage, can help address intermittency issues and reduce dependency on grid transmission, thus enhancing reliability and affordability for rural consumers. Solar plus storage solutions have become more cost-competitive, offering opportunities to serve cooking loads locally. In urban areas, transitioning from piped natural gas or LPG to electric cooking can help generate savings, which can then be reinvested in strengthening the distribution network and supporting wider adoption.

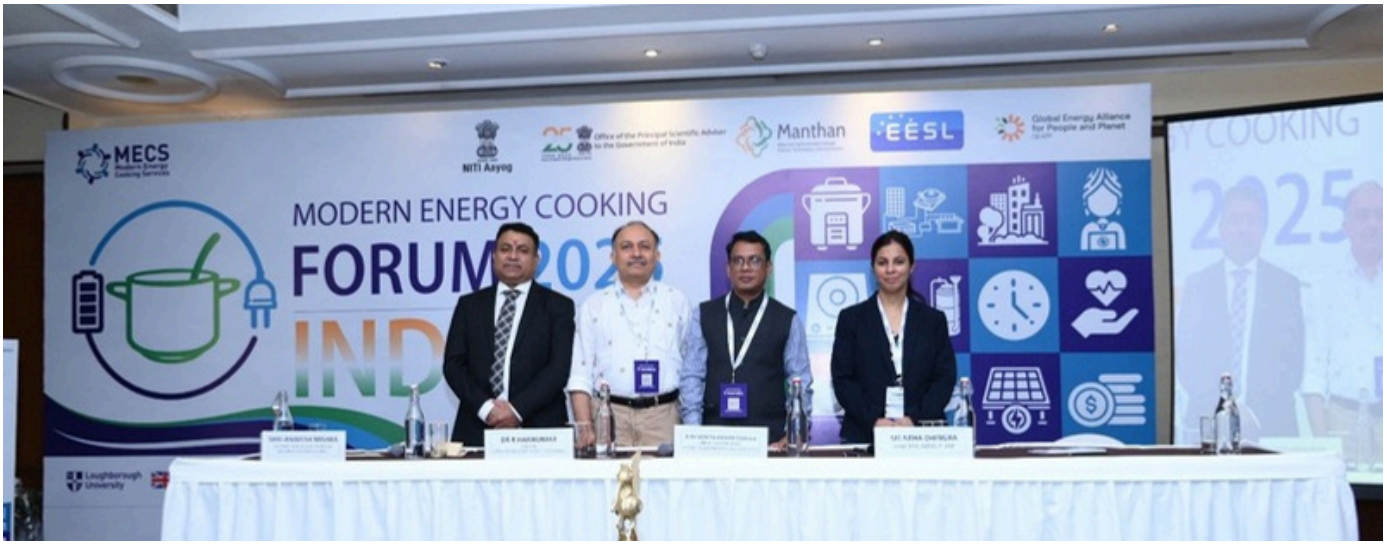
Creating centralised pools of pre-approved appliances, service providers, and national platforms can help build market confidence, reduce costs, and scale adoption. Incentives through blended finance, philanthropy, or government support can catalyse early market creation and help overcome the high upfront costs of renewable cooking appliances. Behavioural and social factors were highlighted as major barriers to adoption. Even when cost-effective, reliable electric or solar cooking solutions are available, households often prefer existing cooking methods such as LPG or biomass due to familiarity and cultural habits. Addressing these behavioural aspects is crucial, alongside ensuring the solutions are socially desirable, culturally appropriate, and aligned with user needs. Building trust through demonstrable benefits, data on health, economic gains, and time savings is essential for widespread adoption.

Regarding solar-based stoves, the discussion noted that despite being operational in multiple households, adoption has been limited by the high costs of photovoltaic panels and initial capital investment. Payback periods are generally three to three-and-a-half years, which is reasonable for decentralised renewable solutions, but affordability remains a barrier. Government subsidies, policy support, and further technological innovation are necessary to make these solutions mainstream. Integration of renewable energy with cooking technologies requires careful planning to ensure grid stability, cost-effectiveness, and scalability, particularly in rural areas with weaker infrastructure.

Finally, the session stressed that India's energy transition requires a combined focus on electrification, greening of electricity, and leveraging renewables efficiently. While installed renewable capacity has grown significantly, generation still predominantly comes from fossil fuels. Key steps for faster greening include system-level planning, digitalisation through smart metering, grid-scale storage, and demand management solutions. Urban areas, with higher reliability and better infrastructure, can serve as initial targets for scaling electric cooking, while decentralised renewable solutions with storage can provide viable options for rural areas. A holistic approach addressing techno-commercial feasibility, social desirability, and policy support is essential to decarbonise the cooking sector effectively and achieve national climate targets.

2. UNLOCKING PATHWAYS FOR STATE-SPECIFIC CLEAN COOKING STRATEGIES

The session was moderated by **Shri Soumya Prasad Garnaik**, India Country Head, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). The panellists include **Dr R Harikumar**, Director, Energy Management Centre (EMC), Kerala, **Shri Animesh Mishra**, CGM and Head Sales & PR, Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), **Ms Neha Dhingra**, Director, India, CLASP.



The discussions highlighted several aspects of electric cooking adoption, particularly in institutional settings such as Anganwadis. Cooking in Anganwadis typically occurs during off-peak electricity hours. While electricity pricing in such institutions is lower than commercial rates and LPG rates are often subsidised for non-domestic cooking, the cost savings from electric cooking can be significant in these settings, though residential and commercial sectors may not realise similar savings because similar savings as of Anganwadis due to higher operational costs. Electric cooking is recognised as a healthier and more efficient alternative in many states, with potential cost efficiency gains of up to 20% where surplus electricity is available. The importance of communicating health benefits and ensuring effective user training was emphasised as a key factor for successful adoption.

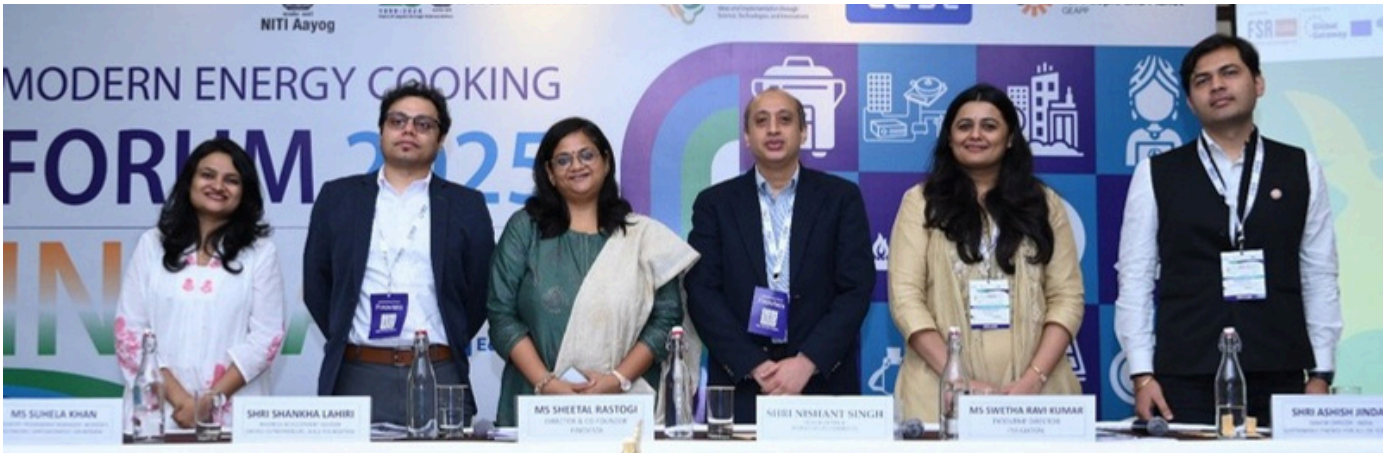
Several operational lessons emerged from prior deployments, including in Andhra Pradesh, where over 11,400 Anganwadis have adopted electric cooking solutions. Considerations around appliance design were highlighted, emphasising intuitive, pictorial interfaces to accommodate users who may not read English or other languages. International collaboration was deemed essential for knowledge sharing, technology improvements, and research and development to advance electric cooking adoption. DISCOMs were identified as crucial stakeholders, as electricity is a key input; however, challenges related to peak demand and existing infrastructure require careful management. Time-of-use tariffs and battery or rooftop solar storage solutions were discussed as mechanisms to mitigate peak load challenges while promoting adoption.

Affordability of appliances was not seen as a barrier, with induction cooktops available at prices accessible even to lower-income households. Nevertheless, mass adoption at scale could add significant load to the grid, highlighting the importance of managing peak demand. Examples from industry demonstrated substantial cost savings and health benefits when transitioning from LPG and oil-based cooking to electric systems, reinforcing the potential for wider adoption. Institutional and targeted consumer programs are important. To address biomass-based cooking in Kerala, the Energy Management Centre (EMC) implemented a two-step model. The first phase focused on introducing improved cookstoves, recognising that fuel was freely available and widely used. More recently, EMC has advanced to promoting e-cooking as a significantly cleaner and more sustainable alternative.

Distribution and after-sales service were recognised as key challenges. Strategies to address these include leveraging e-commerce platforms, providing on-site warranty and servicing, and training local SHG women to perform repairs, thus strengthening both the distribution network and local employment opportunities. User training was highlighted as essential to ensure effective use of appliances, as illustrated by programs in Anganwadis, where training improved adoption and usage rates. Communication and outreach were emphasised as critical, particularly in residential segments, where behavioural aspects can influence adoption. Finally, the discussion raised the need for research on the suitability of microwave ovens for cooking, recognising knowledge gaps around their effectiveness beyond preheating or simple heating applications. The Collaboration with Global Green Growth Institute(GGGI) and Energy Management Centre (EMC) Kerala, with Global Electric Cooking Coalition (GeCCo), was announced to help support them in devising, designing a state-level programme on the eCooking system.

3. WOMEN IN MODERN ENERGY COOKING (WMEC)

The session was moderated by **Ms Sheetal Rastogi,** Director & Co-Founder, Finovista. The panellists were **Shri Nishant Singh**, Senior Advisor, British High Commission (BHC) India, **Ms Suhela Khan**, Country Programme Manager- Women's Economic Empowerment, UN Women, **Shri Shankha Lahiri**, Business Development Adviser (Micro-entrepreneur), Shell Foundation, **Ms Swetha Ravi Kumar**, Executive Director, FSR Global, **Shri Ashish Jindal**, Senior Officer - India, Sustainable Energy for All (SE for All).



The Women in Modern Energy Cooking (WMEC) report provides a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted challenges that women face in transitioning to clean cooking solutions. The report also identifies critical interventions necessary to effectively integrate gender and social inclusion considerations into clean cooking policies and programs.[6] The session highlighted the persistent structural and social barriers that restrict women's full participation in the clean cooking ecosystem, despite their strong representation in STEM education and their central role as end users. Speakers observed that while over 40% of India's STEM graduates are women, only a fraction remain in the workforce, reflecting systemic barriers such as limited awareness, restricted access to finance, and unequal representation in leadership roles. Women-led enterprises often face challenges in packaging their ideas effectively for investors, with traditional credit assessment standards further constraining access to finance. This situation creates an urgent need for concessional finance mechanisms that decouple collateral requirements, incorporate gender-sensitive assessments, and enable greater participation in entrepreneurial ventures. Panellists underscored the potential of public procurement and corporate supply chains to drive demand for women-led enterprises in the clean cooking sector if backed by effective policies and implementation. At the grassroots level, awareness-building and capacity development were identified as essential to ensuring that modern energy cooking solutions are both acceptable and aspirational for consumers, thereby generating momentum among manufacturers, entrepreneurs, and end users alike.

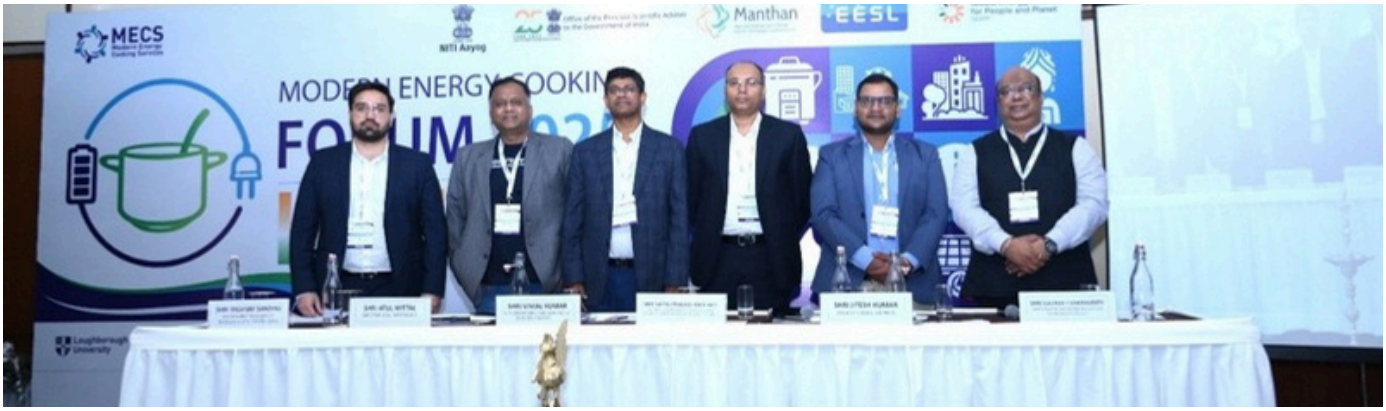
[6] **https://mecs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Women-in-Modern-Energy-Cooking.pdf**

Discussions also emphasised that progress must be pursued on two complementary fronts: bottom-up empowerment of women and top-down institutional reforms. From an empowerment perspective, women entrepreneurs require not only access to finance but also structured mentorship, coaching, and peer networks to overcome barriers such as imposter syndrome and limited exposure to leadership role models. Investing in such support systems was seen as critical to building confidence and credibility for women-led enterprises. From a systemic perspective, gender budgeting was presented as a transformative tool for mainstreaming gender in clean cooking policies, though participants highlighted the need for clear definitions, consistent measurement frameworks, and adoption across ministries to make it effective. The importance of gender-disaggregated data collection was also stressed, drawing lessons from global examples such as Rwanda, where statutory obligations for gender mainstreaming are embedded in national programmes. Impact assessment metrics were proposed, including consumer perception, time savings, health outcomes, financial benefits, and women's involvement at three levels: entrepreneurship, technical services, and distribution, all of which could be integrated into large-scale surveys such as NFHS and NSSO. Case studies from international experiences, including school-feeding programmes in Africa, illustrated how gender-mainstreamed clean cooking interventions could be adapted to Indian schemes such as PM Poshan, enabling cost savings, women's empowerment, and environmental benefits simultaneously.

Coordination among diverse stakeholders was seen as crucial, alongside cross-pollination with innovations from other sectors and the harnessing of technology—for example, digital tools for last-mile subsidy delivery. The role of women as supply chain partners, device repair technicians, and co-designers of products was also emphasised as central to strengthening adoption. Rural adoption challenges were discussed with nuance: while rural women quickly adapt to new technologies when benefits are clear, household decision-making often remains male-dominated, underlining the need to demonstrate economic savings to entire families. Storytelling and advocacy were identified as powerful enablers of change, with calls to leverage social media and public influencers to normalise modern energy cooking, thereby accelerating acceptance and trust. The discussions concluded with an announcement of the Energy Dozen initiative, which spotlights 24 women leaders in energy transition and clean cooking who will mentor young women professionals, exemplifying the values of coordination, role modelling, and leading by example. Collectively, the WMEC discussions underscored that advancing women's leadership in clean cooking is not only about inclusion but also about shaping more effective, sustainable, and scalable solutions for India's energy future.

4. FINANCING CLEAN COOKING

The session was moderated by **Shri Vimal Kumar**, MECS Programme India Lead and Co-Founder, Finovista. The panellists were **Shri Satya Prakash Choubey**, Director - Demand Jobs & Livelihood, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), **Shri Gaurav Chakraverty**, Chief Growth and Marketing Officer, MicroEnergy Credits, **Shri Digvijay Sandhu**, Senior Market Engagement Manager, Digital Utilities, GSMA, **Shri Atul Mittal**, Director Growth- South Asia, Sistema.bio, and **Shri Jitesh Kumar**, Project Director, GIZ India



The session began by highlighting the significant financing gap in achieving universal clean cooking access by 2030, noting that the sector remains severely underfunded both in India and globally. The scale of the challenge was quantified with the cost of transitioning to modern energy cooking in India estimated at USD 8 billion, a figure deemed relatively modest compared to other sectors but substantial when considering the global population reliant on polluting cooking fuels. The panel emphasised that 2.4 billion people currently lack access to clean cooking, and even where electricity is available, the quality and reliability are often insufficient. Cooking contributes approximately 3% of global carbon emissions, illustrating both the environmental and financial stakes in supporting clean cooking transitions. Comparisons were drawn with other sectors: decarbonising aviation requires USD 184 billion, while shipping requires USD 100 billion annually, reinforcing that the USD 8 billion required for clean cooking represents a relatively small but critical opportunity for impact.

A key point discussed was the challenge of technology adoption. India has approximately 350 million households using LPG or PNG connections, highlighting the need to transition a large population to electric or other clean cooking solutions. The discussion explored whether mature technologies, emerging technologies, or a combination would dominate future adoption, and emphasised the need to address inefficiencies while mobilising finances to enable affordable access. The panel reviewed strategies for scaling clean cooking interventions, emphasising innovative financing mechanisms, including carbon credits, blended finance, microfinance, CSR, and domestic development finance. It was noted that financing must address both capital expenditure (CAPEX) and operational expenditure (OPEX) for end users. Microfinance institutions (MFIs) and carbon finance were highlighted as critical mechanisms for reducing costs for end users, though challenges remain due to fluctuating carbon credit prices, particularly for voluntary carbon markets in India, making sustainability complex. Despite these challenges, blended approaches combining government subsidies, grants, CSR funding, and carbon finance can significantly lower user contributions.

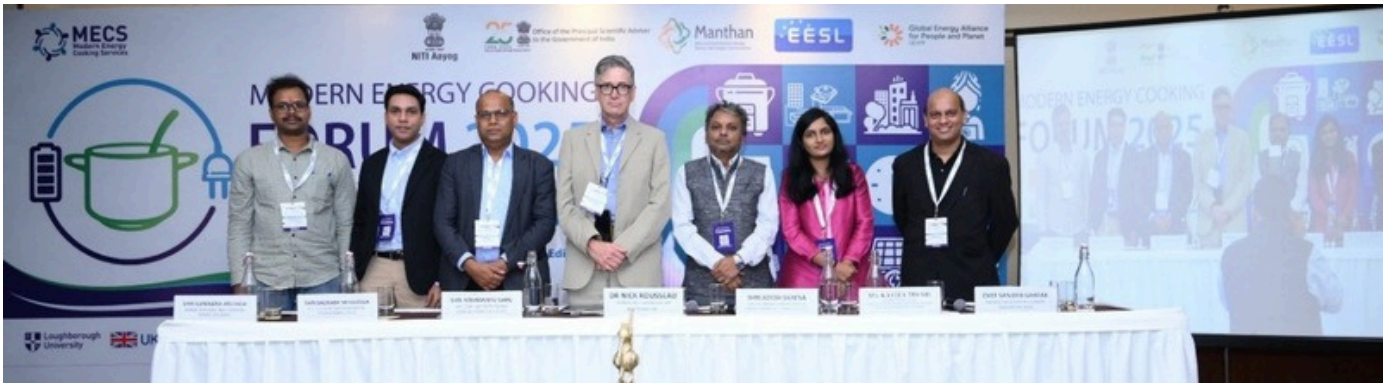
The panel highlighted that financing models must be client-centric, focusing on four key dimensions: awareness, appropriateness of technology, availability, and access. Case studies from India and Africa illustrated that behaviour change is a crucial aspect of adoption, with many households owning electric induction stoves but only a limited number consistently using them for all meals. Effective financing must therefore consider both supply-side support and user incentives, with demonstrative projects essential for understanding real-world uptake, usage behaviour, and economic impact for households transitioning from biomass or LPG to electric cooking.

Results-based financing (RBF) and blended finance were discussed as promising tools, contingent on strong measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems. Digital MRV technologies, such as GSM-enabled monitoring, were identified as critical for capturing utilisation data, verifying carbon reduction outcomes, and building investor confidence. MRV data can also inform future interventions and enable results-based disbursement of funds. Scaling interventions through women-led entrepreneurship and community institutions was emphasised as an effective approach, particularly in low-income and rural areas. Programs targeting women's economic empowerment through clean cooking not only improve adoption but also create livelihoods. Successful examples include initiatives reaching tens of thousands of women, with plans to expand to hundreds of thousands, demonstrating the potential for both social and financial impact.

Government support remains crucial, particularly through blended finance mechanisms, with opportunities to integrate clean cooking into priority sector lending, leverage subsidies, and partner with multilateral institutions. Programmatic examples include working with state governments to strengthen infrastructure, promote renewable energy, and address behavioural, technical, and financial barriers to adoption. The panel also examined corporate engagement and ESG considerations as additional funding sources. Corporations can support clean cooking initiatives through CSR, sustainability goals, or carbon credit purchases, complementing public and philanthropic funding. Innovation in product design, delivery mechanisms, and business models is essential to attract corporate investment while ensuring accessibility and affordability for end users.

5. DEMAND-SIDE DYNAMICS AND CHALLENGES IN SCALING ECOOKING ADOPTION

The session was moderated by **Dr Nick Rousseau**, International Liaison Manager, MECS Programme. The panellists were **Shri Adesh Saxena**, General Manager and Head NECP, Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), **Shri Abhimanyu Sahu**, Director - Access to Energy, Schneider Electric Pvt Ltd, **Shri Saurabh Srivastava**, Vice President Sales & Marketing, EPACK Durable Limited, **Chef Sanjeeb Ghatak**, Indian Federation of Culinary Association (IFCA), **Ms Kavita Tiwari**, International Lead, Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (O/o PSA) to the Govt of India, **Shri Surendra Atchyam**, Senior Manager, BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd.



The adoption of electric cooking in India is increasingly being driven by a combination of awareness campaigns, financial innovations, and public-private partnerships. Raising consumer awareness about the benefits of energy-efficient cooking devices is critical to building trust and encouraging widespread uptake. Demonstrating the health, environmental, and economic advantages of e-cooking through targeted campaigns, community demonstrations, and pilot projects helps address scepticism and unfamiliarity. Financial mechanisms, such as subsidies, flexible payment plans, and microfinance options, can make these devices more accessible, particularly for low- and middle-income households. Public-private collaborations further enhance market reach by combining the scale and efficiency of private manufacturers with the institutional support and credibility of government programs, ensuring that adoption efforts are inclusive and sustainable.

From an energy and infrastructure perspective, integrating e-cooking into India's electricity ecosystem requires careful planning. Cooking demand typically peaks outside solar hours, making a reliable and affordable electricity supply a key factor. Time-of-use tariffs, demand-side management, and the use of rooftop solar with battery storage can help shift consumption to non-peak hours and reduce grid stress. Institutional adoption in schools, hospitals, and community kitchens demonstrates how electric cooking can improve efficiency, reduce smoke exposure, and serve as a model for wider implementation. Large-scale deployments are already underway, for instance, EESL has supplied 2,000 induction stoves in Ladakh, 11,400 in Andhra Pradesh, with another 55,607 planned, while Schneider Electric has piloted projects in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, drawing on experience from distributing over 7,000 solar cooker home systems in Cambodia. Training and capacity-building for commercial cooks and household users alike are essential to ensure that devices are used safely and effectively while maximising energy efficiency.

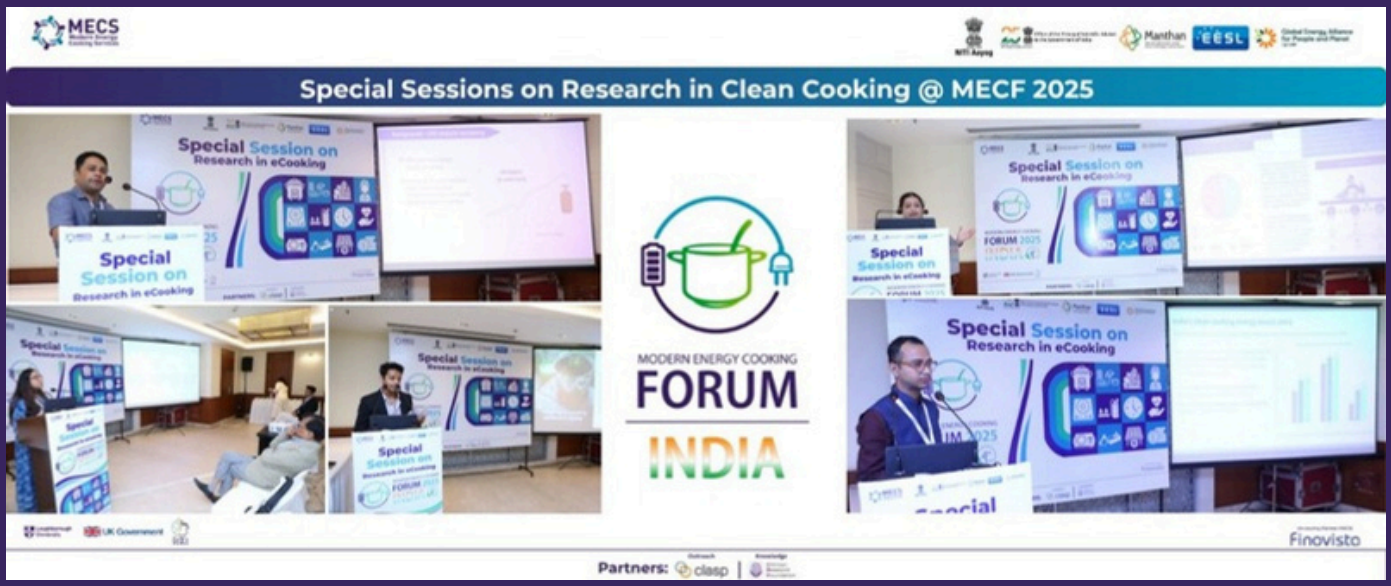
On the manufacturing and market side, ensuring affordability, accessibility, and usability of devices is critical for scaling up e-cooking adoption. Continuous product innovation, supply chain resilience, and backward integration help manufacturers maintain quality while reducing costs. Consumer-focused designs that require minimal behavioural change and offer convenience are more likely to achieve lasting adoption.

It was noted that while many cooks may lack formal technical skills, the adaptability required is not complex; if individuals can operate a smartphone, they can also operate modern electronic cooking appliances with the right guidance. Practical demonstrations were emphasised as a powerful tool, showing how dishes that previously required hours of manual effort can now be prepared more efficiently with e-cooking technologies, saving both time and energy. The conversation also underlined the broader benefits of this transition, including improved efficiency in bulk cooking, reduced need for large spaces, and the potential to ease labour-intensive processes. Training kitchens, canteens, and large-scale catering units in the use of electronic equipment was seen as vital for driving adoption, while ensuring that the cultural and culinary richness of Indian cuisine continues to thrive in a modern, sustainable context.

Pilots and demonstration programs, coupled with targeted training initiatives, can further build user confidence and create a culture of e-cooking. By linking subsidies for traditional fuels to electric cooking solutions, incorporating CSR initiatives, and fostering collaborative approaches across stakeholders, India can create a coordinated, inclusive, and scalable pathway toward a cleaner, safer, and more efficient cooking ecosystem.

SPECIAL SESSION ON RESEARCH IN CLEAN COOKING

The Special Session[7] on Research in Clean Cooking at the Modern Energy Cooking Forum 2025 highlighted the critical role of evidence in advancing sustainable cooking solutions. Experts emphasised that electric cooking technologies, such as induction cooktops and electric pressure cookers, offer high efficiency, reduced emissions, and time savings, but adoption depends on affordability, socio-cultural factors, and integration with renewable energy sources. Shri Sunil Mani (IISD) discussed how smarter subsidies and rooftop solar can facilitate household adoption, while Shri Biraj Gautam (PEEDA) shared insights from Nepal, showing that small enterprises require targeted subsidies, awareness campaigns, and robust service networks to transition from LPG to eCooking. From India, Finovista presented findings from multi-fuel controlled cooking experiments, evaluating efficiency and cost across common dishes and appliances. CLASP highlighted the Global LEAP Awards' role in fostering innovation, improving appliance standards, and encouraging manufacturers to deliver user-friendly, market-ready induction cookstoves, underscoring the importance of research-driven strategies for policy, technology, and consumer adoption.



[7] https://finovista27-my.sharepoint.com/personal/finovista1_finovista27_onmicrosoft_com/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Ffinovista1%5Ffinovista27%5Fonmicrosoft%5Fcom%2FDocuments%2FMaster%20Folders%20AD%20FV%2FFinovista%2FProjects%2FP27%2635%20MECS%20Programme%2FForum%2FMECF%202025%2FKnowledge%20Document%20%26%20Speakers%20profile%2FPPT%2FSpecial%20session&ga=1

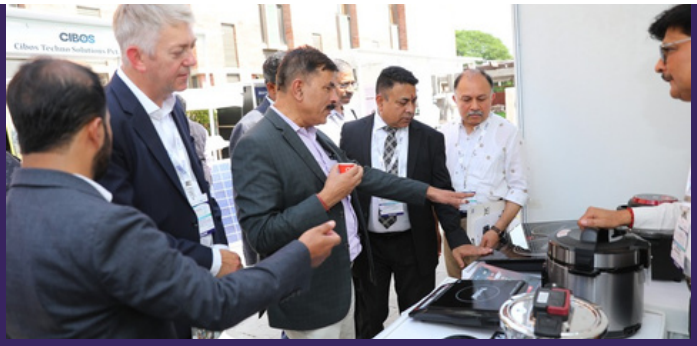
INNOVATION PAVILION: MODERN ENERGY COOKING FORUM 2025

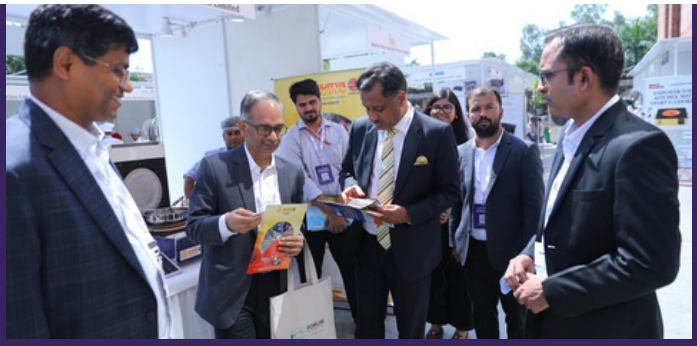
As part of the Modern Energy Cooking Forum 2025, an Innovation Pavilion was set up to create a vibrant platform for showcasing the latest advancements in clean and modern cooking technologies. The Pavilion was set as a vibrant platform where manufacturers, innovators, policy makers, and participants could interact meaningfully, learn about breakthrough solutions, and witness live demonstrations of technologies that are meant to redefine the future of cooking. By bringing innovation closer to the audience, the Pavilion created an environment where knowledge exchange, networking, and business opportunities were made possible.

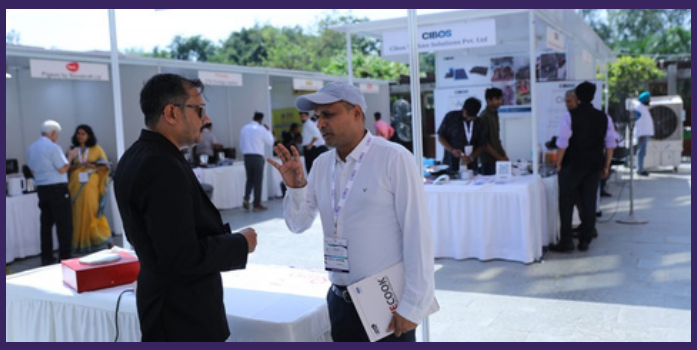
The Pavilion featured the participation of 17 manufacturers from diverse segments of the clean cooking sector. Each of them presented technologies that address unique needs ranging from rural households and small eateries to large-scale community kitchens and institutional setups. Visitors to the Pavilion were able to experience first-hand how these technologies function, understand their energy efficiency and operational advantages, and engage in discussions with the exhibitors. The exhibition also had live cooking demonstration which allowed many participants to not only appreciate the innovations but also experience first-hand through tasting. The manufacturers were able to explore possible orders and collaborations. This direct interaction between technology providers and users ensured that the Pavilion was not just an exhibition space but also a marketplace for ideas and solutions.

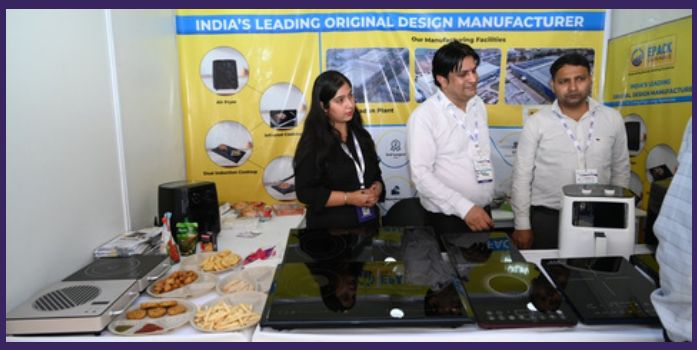
Among the technologies showcased, several stood out for their potential impact. Curved infrared cooktops, commercial inductions and boilers were noted for their suitability in both domestic and institutional settings. Double burner infrared systems, available in both AC and DC variants, were particularly appealing for community kitchens and self-help group canteens. A newly modified version of Indian Oil's Surya Nutan solar cooktop also drew attention for its innovative use of thermal battery storage, enabling cooking both during sunlight hours and at night. Another exciting innovation was the hydrogen-based Hycooker, which represents an entirely new pathway to zero-carbon cooking. Other solutions, such as ethanol- and biogas-based systems, smart induction appliances, and IoT-enabled devices underscore the diversity and adaptability of the technologies being developed in this space.

GLIMPSE OF EXHIBITION ON MODERN ENERGY COOKING TECHNOLOGIES









SPEAKER PROFILES

PROF MATTHEW LEACH

Professor Of Energy and Environmental Systems, MECS
Programme Lead for Clean Energy, Finance and Data Analysis

Matt is a Professor of Energy and Environmental Systems and leads data analysis and modelling within the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) Programme. A chartered engineer with over 30 years of experience in energy policy, low-carbon technologies, decentralized energy systems, and energy modelling, he has made significant contributions to advancing sustainable energy solutions.

Within MECS, his work includes developing tools to assess the costs of cooking, as well as the financial, environmental, and social impacts of cooking transitions across multiple countries in Africa and South and Southeast Asia. Most recently, he has been supporting the development of digital data-driven carbon credit methodologies for modern cooking.

SHRI MILIND BHIKANRAO DEORE

Secretary, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power,
Govt of India

Shri Milind Deore is the Secretary of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and brings over 22 years of experience in the energy sector, including more than 12 years with BEE. His expertise spans policy development, program implementation, and international collaboration, positioning him as a key leader in advancing India's energy efficiency agenda.

At BEE, Milind leads major initiatives under the Energy Conservation Act, including the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) Scheme, the Standards & Labelling (S&L) Program, and energy efficiency programs for MSMEs, DISCOMs, and other critical sectors. He has been instrumental in strengthening the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA), expanding the National Painting Competition, and developing the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI)—a tool that drives state-level benchmarking and fosters best practices. His leadership has also advanced energy audits and energy accounting across DISCOMs, further reinforcing India's energy efficiency framework.

SHRI AKHILESH KUMAR DIXIT

CEO
Energy Efficiency Services Limited

Shri Akhilesh Kumar Dixit is currently the CEO of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL). With an impressive career spanning over 32 years, he brings deep domain expertise and leadership acumen to the forefront of India's energy efficiency transformation.

At EESL, he is driving efforts to accelerate the deployment of energy-efficient technologies, scale up sustainable solutions, and strengthen India's position in the global clean energy transition.

A graduate in Electrical Engineering from Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology, Gorakhpur, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management (PGDBM) from the prestigious Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon, Mr. Dixit combines technical proficiency with strategic business insight.

Over the course of his distinguished career, Mr. Dixit has successfully led and contributed to a wide range of functional areas, demonstrating versatility and depth across the power and energy sector. His expertise spans power transmission and substation projects, business development and strategic partnerships, corporate social responsibility (CSR), human resources and organizational development, as well as procurement and supply chain management. This multifaceted experience reflects his ability to drive performance, foster innovation, and deliver value across both technical and strategic domains.

His leadership is marked by the successful execution of several complex and high-impact projects, often under challenging conditions. His global exposure — gained through extensive international travel and collaboration — has enriched his cross-cultural leadership capabilities and expanded his strategic outlook.

DR VIBHA DHAWAN

Director General
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Dr. Vibha Dhawan is the Director General of TERI and Chancellor of TERI School of Advanced Studies. A distinguished academician and researcher, she is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India. Currently, she serves as an Adjunct Professor at the Consul General South Asia Partnership, Michigan State University. Dr. Dhawan has authored six books and over 70 publications, significantly contributing to research and innovation.

Dr. Dhawan is a member of the Department of Biotechnology, the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, and Biotech Consortium India. She also serves on the Networks Strategy Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a global initiative for the United Nations. She was the Co-Chair of the T20 Task Force 4 on "Refuelling Growth: Clean Energy and Green Transitions."

Under her visionary leadership, TERI established the National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping in collaboration with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. She also played a crucial role in founding the DBT-TERI Centre on Advanced Biofuels, fostering cutting-edge research in sustainable energy solutions.

Dr. Dhawan's extensive career includes serving as Coordinator of the Asia Pacific Consortium on Agriculture Biotechnology, Advisor to the Director General of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre, and Deputy Director for Research Partnerships and Coordination with the Borlaug Institute for South Asia. She has been a board member of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Ambedkar University, Agriliv Research Foundation, and the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI).

One of her significant achievements includes establishing the Micropropagation Technology Park at TERI, a successful initiative in plant biotechnology. She has also contributed to developing e-learning content for postgraduate biotechnology programs under the University Grants Commission.

Dr Dhawan has joined the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Energy Technology Frontiers for the 2025-2026 term as a council member. Dr Dhawan has also joined the Governing Council of the United Nations Global Compact Network India.

MS ARCHANA CHAUHAN

Head-Energy Sector Reform
British High Commission, New Delhi

Archana leads the Energy Sector Policy Reforms portfolio at the British High Commission in New Delhi, where she heads the UK–India bilateral programme Accelerating Smart Power and Renewable Energy in India (ASPiRE), focused on advancing smart power and renewable energy initiatives across the country.
With over 12 years of experience in the energy and power sector, she has developed strong expertise in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electric mobility. Her work spans close collaboration with central and state governments on policy development, policy implementation, and innovative business models for the emerging energy sector.

Prior to her current role, Archana led the National Electric Bus Programme at Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), contributing to India's transition towards clean and sustainable mobility solutions.

DR NICK ROUSSEAU

International LiaisonManager
MECS Programme

Dr Nick brings over 20 years of experience from the UK Government, where his final role was Head of International Innovation Strategy at the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. In this role, he led the innovation strand of the Newton Programme and spearheaded government-to-government policy dialogues.

Through his consultancy, Unconventional Connections, Nick has advanced innovation collaborations, including work funded by DfID to leverage the UK's strengths in clean energy technology to expand access to clean energy in Africa and Southeast Asia. He also has a strong personal interest in sustainable food solutions and founded the Woven Network in 2015, a UK-based community for professionals working on insect protein.

Nick holds BA, MSc, and PhD degrees in psychology from the Universities of Cambridge, Loughborough, and Sheffield, with a specialization in psychology and user-centered system design. Within the MECS Programme, he serves as one of the International Liaison Managers for India.

MS SHEETAL RASTOGI

Director & Co-Founder
Finovista

Ms Sheetal holds over 16 years of experience in developing strategy and execution roadmaps for new business initiatives in Retail with a focus on Consumer Experience. She has a diverse background of working with leading firms in Banking & Finance, Manufacturing, and Specialty Retail.

At Finovista, she has been instrumental in leading various research, outreach and capacity building initiatives, which includes; Study on Indian Cooking Culture, CCT Study for India eCookbook, Baseline and Trials study for eCooking ie "In-Depth Exploration of Cooking with Electricity", research co-ordination of large baseline study, Induction User testing under Global Leap Awards and outreach initiatives includes Talk Series and Modern Energy Cooking Forum. She has also been instrumental in planning grassroots training initiatives for livelihood creation.

Sheetal firmly believes that women's leadership in the clean cooking sector is key to accelerating this transition. When women become advocates, entrepreneurs, and decision-makers in clean cooking, they drive real, lasting change in their communities. She is mentor for the 2023 & 2025 Women in Clean Cooking (WICC) Mentoring Program, a collaborative initiative by the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA), Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and the Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET). She has also been recognised as an Energy Dozen 2024 – An initiative by FSR Global and EU Chambers in India – that spotlights 12 Women in energy sector in India.

MS NEHA DHINGRA

Director (India)
CLASP

Ms Neha Dhingra serves as the Director of the India Program at CLASP, bringing over 14 years of experience in energy efficiency and clean energy access across India, Southeast Asia, and West Africa. She specializes in appliance efficiency standards and labelling, with expertise in policy and regulatory analysis, compliance policy design, and institutional capacity building. In her role, Neha leads strategic partnerships with governments, civil society, donors, and international organizations to advance ambitious appliance energy efficiency policies.

Prior to joining CLASP, she worked with EcoSecurities India, where she promoted carbon revenue generation for renewable energy projects.

DR DEBAJIT PALIT

Centre Head - Centre for Climate Change and Energy Transition
Chintan Research Foundation

Dr. Debajit Palit holds 27 years of experience, working in the domains such as renewable energy, energy transition, clean energy access, micro-grids and energy-livelihood-gender nexus. Dr. Palit holds a Master's degree in Physics and a Ph.D. in Energy Policy, with his doctoral research focused on the convergence of grid and decentralized electricity solutions for effective rural electrification. He is currently heading the Centre for Climate Change & Energy Transition at Chintan Research Foundation, New Delhi. His diverse experience includes working in the projects for UN organisations, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and bilateral organisations. He is a prolific writer and has published 3 books and around 150 scholarly papers.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR

Director General
All India DISCOM Association (AIDA)

Shri Alok Kumar is presently working as Director General, All India Discoms Association in Delhi. He is also a Partner with The Lantau Group, a Professor of Practice in the Department of Hydro and Renewable Energy at IIT Roorkee, and chairs the Inter-Ministerial Working Group set up by NITI Aayog to develop the power sector pathway to achieve the Net Zero commitment by India. Alok is a member of the National Task Force for developing the roadmap for India Energy Stack and POC for Utility Intelligence Platform, and a member of CII National Committees on Power and Renewable Energy.

In addition, he is an Independent Director on the Board of Power Exchange India Limited and has contributed to numerous international projects in electricity and energy transition.

A member of the Indian Administrative Service with a distinguished 35-year career, he has held leadership roles in public policy and economic development, including serving as Secretary to the Government of India. He has extensive experience across electricity, renewable energy, infrastructure, and skill development, and has led several major organizations as CEO, including distribution utilities in Uttar Pradesh. He played a pivotal role in formulating and implementing national and state-level policies, programs, and regulatory reforms, and successfully managed one of the world's largest power systems. His expertise in global energy transition is reflected in his role as Chair of the G20 Energy Transitions Working Group. He was instrumental in the formulation and implementation of several national and state-level policies, programmes, and regulatory interventions

SHRI JEEVAN KUMAR JETHANI

Senior Director/ Scientist F
Ministry Of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India

Jeevan Kumar Jethani serves as Senior Director / Scientist-F at the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, bringing over two decades of distinguished experience in the Indian power and renewable energy sectors. An Electrical Engineer with a Postgraduate Diploma in Infrastructure Management and a Certified Energy Auditor, he has made significant contributions to policy formulation, programme implementation, and institutional development in the sector.

Mr. Jethani began his career in rural electrification and power distribution, subsequently working on coal-based thermal power projects in the areas of construction, commissioning, and operations & maintenance. He played a key role in the Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring Project in collaboration with the World Bank and later served at the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), where he was responsible for managing the RGGVY scheme. He has also represented Rajasthan's power sector in Delhi, coordinating with central agencies on critical sectoral issues.

Since joining MNRE in 2011, he has been instrumental in shaping India's renewable energy policies and programmes. His contributions include advancing the National Solar Mission, establishing competitive bidding frameworks for wind energy, promoting rooftop and off-grid solar initiatives, and leading the formulation and implementation of the PM-KUSUM Scheme.

In addition, as Executive Director of the Association of Renewable Energy Agencies of States (AREAS), Mr. Jethani revitalized the organization, strengthening inter-state collaboration, capacity building, and knowledge sharing among renewable energy agencies across India.

DR UMISH SRIVASTAVA

Executive Director (R&D&TPF)
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)

Dr. Umish Srivastava is an accomplished energy professional with a distinguished academic background, holding a B.E. in Mechanical Engineering (Gold Medalist), a Post-Graduation in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Roorkee, and a Doctorate in Energy Studies from IIT Delhi.

He currently serves as Executive Director at Indian Oil R&D Centre, Faridabad, and is also the Chairman of Indian Oil Adani Venture Biogas Pvt. Ltd., a joint venture company.

Dr. Srivastava is credited with the commercialization of "Surya Nutan", Indian Oil's groundbreaking and world's only indoor solar cooking system, and has steered the successful development of a patented high-performing Biogas technology.

As Team Leader at Indian Oil R&D, he oversees strategic research in Solar Energy, Bioenergy, Hydrogen, Gasification, Batteries, Intellectual Property, Technology Promotion, and Forecasting. He has been granted over 45 patents and has authored more than 45 publications in reputed technical journals.

An accredited Green Building Professional by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), Dr. Srivastava is widely recognized for his contributions to sustainable energy innovations and clean technology solutions.

MS NIDHI SARIN

Director Energy Transitions
Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)

Nidhi Sarin is an Energy and Climate Change Specialist with over 18 years of experience, distinguished by her work across bilateral organizations, international agencies, and the corporate sector. She holds a Master's degree in Environment Management and is a strong advocate for global sustainability initiatives, including the EU Green Deal. Currently, as the Director of Energy Transitions at the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), she leads critical energy transition initiatives in India.

Her efforts are aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing energy access, and creating sustainable employment opportunities.

Nidhi's extensive experience includes significant roles with international organizations such as GIZ, the UK Government and United Nations. At GIZ, she served as Program Head for Access to Energy in Rural Areas and spearheaded many other initiatives in the clean energy space. During her tenure, she provided strategic leadership for multi-million-dollar programs, driving energy transition and clean energy access in alignment with India's climate commitments. She has contributed through advising on policy development and implementation of sustainable energy and climate change programs at the United Nations and with the UK Government.

Nidhi is recognized as one of Asia's top 50 most influential women leaders in Renewable Energy in 2020. She has worked on fostering public-private partnerships and developing innovative business models for renewable energy.

Her ability to bridge the gap between policy and implementation has made her an asset in driving forward India's energy transition agenda.

SHRI SOUMYA PRASAD GARNAIK

India Country Head
Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

Mr. Garnaik is presently serving as the India Country Head at the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), where he leads green growth initiatives at national and sub-national levels. With 29 years of professional experience, he has held leadership positions in government, bilateral, and international organizations, focusing on energy policy, energy efficiency, and resource conservation.

From 2016 to 2022, as Executive Director at Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL), Ministry of Power, Government of India, he managed portfolios of energy efficiency projects worth over USD 750 million and directed two GEF-funded projects with technical assistance of USD 21 million. Earlier, as Director at the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), he oversaw flagship programs such as Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) and the Standards & Labelling program. His career also includes key roles at the National Productivity Council (NPC), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), and ICF International, where he delivered over 100 major consulting assignments in India and abroad.

An accomplished trainer, Mr. Garnaik has conducted more than 200 technical sessions for corporates, government agencies, and academic institutions. Internationally, he has contributed as Policy Expert for Thailand's Energy Performance Certificate Scheme, developed ESCO markets in Thailand and Vietnam, and represented India in global forums, including ISO TC-257 (Paris) and the Clean Energy Ministerial.

Mr. Garnaik holds a bachelor's degree (Honors) in Electrical Engineering from Utkal University and a Postgraduate degree in Plant Engineering from the National Productivity Council. He is a Certified Energy Auditor (BEE), Certified IPMVP Professional, and Certified Lead Auditor (ISO 18001). He has authored/presented over 50 technical papers and has undergone advanced training in energy efficiency in Japan and the USA.

DR R HARIKUMAR

Director
Energy Management Centre Kerala

Dr R. Harikumar brings over 32 years of experience in energy efficiency and renewable energy. He is a Mechanical Engineering graduate with a postgraduate degree in Energy Conservation, a Ph.D. in Energy Management, and a Certified Energy Auditor and Founding General Secretary of the Society of Energy Engineers and Managers (SEEM). Currently, he is the Director of the Energy Management Centre (EMC), Government of Kerala— the State Designated Agency of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Government of India.

Dr. Harikumar has played a key role in implementing national energy initiatives in Kerala, including the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), PAT Scheme, and Standards & Labelling programs. Notably, during his deputation as Director of ANERT, he helped launch the landmark "Soura" program targeting 1000 MW of solar power by 2022. His contributions span consultancy, capacity building, and policy implementation, both in India and abroad

SHRI ANIMESH MISHRA

Chief General Manager and Head (Sales & CCPR)
Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)

Mr. Animesh Mishra, Chief General Manager and Head (Sales & CCPR) at Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), brings over two decades of experience across telecom, manufacturing and energy sectors. Prior to joining EESL, he held leadership roles with Airtel, Sleepwell and Vodafone. At EESL, he has pioneered the Channel Partner Program, expanded the distribution network and strengthened brand presence through digital marketing. His strong commitment to advancing the Digital India Program has earned him recognition and accolades across multiple programs, highlighting his pivotal role in shaping EESL's digital transformation.

SHRI VIMAL KUMAR

MECS Programme India Lead &
Co-founder Finovista

Shri Vimal is the Co-founder of Finovista, works extensively in the areas of In-country Representation, Program Management Consulting, Technology Transfer, and Capacity Building. He possesses extensive expertise and experience in managing various National, Bilateral, and Multilateral programs, and as Indo-German GINSEP's Ambassador. At Finovista, he leads prestigious programs, viz, India-UK Future Telecom Partnership Program (UK Govt), UK-India Innovation Partnership Initiative (UKIPI) under COP26 (UK Govt), Tech4Good Innovation Challenge (German Govt), Social Enterprise (So Enterprising) Development (Indian Govt), Promotion of CSIR Knowledgebase, etc. Additionally, during the association with Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA), as a Head of Strategy & Partnership, he conceptualized and managed Bilateral Collaborative Industrial R&D Programs with Canada, Finland, Israel, Italy, Spain, South Korea, the UK, etc. Vimal believes in integrating Innovation and Finance for societal development and economic growth.

MS SUHELA KHAN

Country Programme Manager- Women's Economic Empowerment
UN Women

Suhela is the Country Programme Manager for Women's Economic Empowerment Programme at UN Women in India. She has an extensive experience in management of large-scale transformational programmes focused on integrating feminist principles and strategies to advance women's economic rights and opportunities. Her expertise lies in the areas of programme development, management, implementation, measuring impact and partnership building.She has worked extensively with Central and State Governments, private sector as well as civil society organizations. Suhela is a Ford Fellow and holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Michigan.

MS SWETHA RAVI KUMAR

Executive Director
FSR Global

Swetha is the Executive Director of FSR Global, where she leads the organization's research, training, and policy dialogue initiatives, with a focus on strengthening global south–south and north–south knowledge exchange. Her key projects include Smart Grid Observatory for India, resource adequacy planning and modelling, digitalization of the power sector, regulation for SDG 7, and the integration of electric vehicles with the power sector.

Swetha serves as Vice President – Communications at both the International Association for Energy Economics and the Indian Association for Energy Economics. She also chairs The Energy Network, a professional platform for women in the energy sector.

Her professional experience spans internationally recognized institutions such as FMO Dutch Development Bank (Netherlands), Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE (Germany), Confederation of Indian Industry – Green Business Centre (India), Assistive Technology Lab BVRIT (India), and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

Swetha holds a Master's degree in Sustainable Energy Engineering from KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden (Erasmus Scholar), an Advanced Management Program credential from the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, India.

SHRI SHANKHA LAHIRI

Business Development Advisor: Micro-entrepreneur
Shell Foundation

Shankha joined Shell Foundation in February 2022 as its India-based Business Development Adviser.
Prior to joining SF, Shankha spent more than six years working in India across various fields – from supporting early-stage start-ups and studying the sustainability of projects, to on-the-ground implementation of renewable energy initiatives. He has previously worked with organisations such as WWF-India, Villgro Innovations Foundation, and Development Alternatives Group. Shankha holds a Master's degree in Energy Management from the University of Calcutta (India) and a B. Tech from WBUT, India.

SHRI ASHISH JINDAL

Senior Officer- India
Sustainable Energy for All (SE for ALL)

Ashish Jindal is the Senior Officer, India for SEforALL, who is currently managing and coordinating activities that support the development of energy efficiency implementation, large-scale energy efficiency investment initiatives, and utility demand flexibility programs in India. These efforts aim to double energy efficiency activities in the country and follow up on the G20 Energy Efficiency agenda. He is a sustainability and climate change professional with over 15 years of experience in the areas of energy efficiency and clean energy through large-scale implementation, policy advocacy, research, and consultancy assignments.

He has worked at Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Ministry of Power, Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and others on clean energy interventions through program design, financial modelling, technical frameworks, project preparation and business plan, roadmaps and implementation of national programs in India, South-East Asia and Middle East region.

Ashish has an MBA in Energy Management and a B.Tech. In Electronics. He has completed an Executive Program in Data Analytics from the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, PMVA for IPMVP from Efficiency Valuation Organization, and has completed a Project Management Professional Certification from the USA. He is based in New Delhi.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH CHOUBEY

Director - Demand Jobs & Livelihood, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)

Satya Prakash Choubey is a development professional with 20+ years of experience in various national and international projects for microfinance, entrepreneurship development, water and sanitation, health, and renewable energy. Currently, he is working in Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) in India as Director -Demand, Green Jobs and Enterprise Development through Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE) applications. He is passionate about sustainable enterprises development through a total market approach, engaging private sector players in an innovative business model. He has facilitated more than 10,000 small and medium rural business enterprises as part of various programs in BASIX, CARE, Institute of Financial Management and Research (IFMR), Populational Services International (PSI), and Smart Power India (SPI). He has developed the Enterprise Capacity Assessment Tool (E-CAT) and co-authored "Demand Generation Handbook for Solar Mini Grids in India".

He is an agriculture graduate from Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management from Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar.

SHRI GAURAV CHAKRAVERTY

Chief Growth & Marketing Officer
MicroEnergy Credits

Gaurav is an enterprising and dynamic leader with over 25 years of experience in managing large-scale initiatives across ICT for development, rural development, financial inclusion, NGO management, BFSI, social entrepreneurship, climate impact, and livelihood development. His expertise lies in designing and executing strategies that drive long-term, sustainable impact.

He has held senior leadership positions in reputed organizations such as Drishtee, TERI, and FINO, bringing a strong blend of sectoral knowledge and strategic vision. Before taking on his current role leading partnerships and growth at MicroEnergy Credits, Gaurav served as the Chief Operating Officer at Grameen Foundation India, where he played a key role in advancing innovative development solutions.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SANDHU

Senior Market Engagement Manager, Digital Utilities
GSMA

Digvijay is a Senior Market Engagement Manager at the GSMA, leading initiatives under the Digital Utilities and ClimateTech programmes. He drives strategic partnerships with mobile operators, innovators, and governments to scale digital solutions in water, climate resilience, and financial inclusion across emerging markets. His work focuses on market strategy, stakeholder engagement and enabling impactful tech adoption.

Digvijay has a solid background in policy execution, having played a significant role in various national and state initiatives related to health, pollution, and climate change. He has worked on scaling India's green bond market, with an emphasis on climate risk assessment and mitigation. He holds a degree in Economics from the University of Delhi and an MBA from the Indian School of Business.

SHRI ATUL MITTAL

Director Growth, South Asia
Sistema.bio

Atul is an accomplished, creative, and entrepreneurial senior executive with 24 years of professional experience, demonstrating proven success in community mobilization, carbon financing, brand development, and the establishment of renewable energy solutions such as solar, cookstoves, water purifiers, and, most recently, biogas. His career spans leadership roles with global brands including British Petroleum, Philips Electronics, Max New York Life, and Wockhardt, as well as impactful social enterprises such as d.light solar and MicroEnergy Credits.

He currently serves as South Asia Director for Growth at Sistema.bio, a social enterprise that equips smallholder dairy farmers with biogas technology, services, and financing solutions. Since March 2019, Atul has been driving the adoption of biogas digesters across India, South Asia, and East Africa, working through partnerships with private dairies, foundations, rural entrepreneurship organizations, and government agencies. His efforts focus on promoting biogas not only as a clean cooking solution but also as a source of biofertilizer, electricity generation, and livelihood enhancement, contributing to farmer self-reliance and sustainable agriculture.

With outstanding sectoral expertise in social marketing, social franchising, small enterprise development, and integrated development management, Atul has built a strong track record in renewable energy and livelihood programs that have delivered measurable impact across India, South Asia, and East African countries.

SHRI JITESH KUMAR

Project Director
GIZ India

Jitesh Kumar is a seasoned energy professional with over 15+ years of experience in leading renewable energy and energy access projects. He is currently positioned as Project Director at GIZ India. He specializes in navigating complex, multi-stakeholder environments to bridge policy development with on-the-ground implementation.
In his current role, he spearheads the technical cooperation project "Implementation of Energy Plans," a critical initiative focused on accelerating India's energy transition. Jitesh's work has been instrumental in several key areas: improving the framework for Building Integrated and Rail/Road Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV/RIPV), implementing green cooking program in various states, supporting policy development for energy storage, and pioneering the bioenergy sector.

His core expertise lies in renewable energy, strategic leadership, energy policy development, and stakeholder engagement. Jitesh holds an MBA in Power Management from the National Power Training Institute and is recognized for his strategic vision in developing and implementing long-term, multi-sectoral energy plans for Indian states.

SHRI ADESH SAXENA

General Manager and Head NECP
EESL

Adesh Saxena serves as General Manager and Head of NECP at EESL, where he has played a pivotal role in advancing the adoption of energy-efficient appliances through innovative channels such as the Channel Partner Program and e-commerce platforms, including EESL MART, GeM, as well as direct-to-consumer initiatives in collaboration with CSCs and State Livelihood Missions.

With extensive experience in designing and implementing large-scale energy efficiency projects, he has successfully led engagements with international, national, and state governments, utilities, municipal corporations, industry partners, investors, donors, civil society, and academic institutions. He is an active member of several international missions led by the Government of India and has contributed significantly to high-level platforms, including the BRICS Summit and global workshops organized with the World Bank and UNEP.

Mr. Saxena also brings deep expertise in climate change-related global mechanisms such as CDM, VCS, GEF, and GCF, particularly in the context of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. His experience spans sector-specific policy formulation as well as the development of project design documents, making him a key contributor to India's clean energy and climate action agenda.

SHRI ABHIMANYU SAHU

Director-Access to Energy,
Schneider Electric Pvt Ltd

Abhimanyu is a result-oriented business leader with over 27 years of experience in the electrical industry, combining strong technical expertise, entrepreneurial drive, and sharp business acumen. He has successfully led strategic social business initiatives and global CSR programs, while also building and managing high-performing global R&D teams to develop products for international markets. A motivated self-starter, he has earned multiple awards for best projects and has been widely recognized for his contributions to social business and corporate responsibility initiatives.

In his career with Schneider Electric, he established and led the Global Product Development team at the Schneider Electric Global Technology Center in Bangalore, responsible for new product development and product evolution in the electrical sector. In 2008, he launched the pioneering Access to Energy Program in India, which has since been scaled across 20 countries in Asia, Africa, and South America, providing access to green electricity to more than 50 million people between 2009 and 2024. The same year, he founded the Schneider Electric India Foundation (SEIF), where he shaped the CSR vision and strategy, and later served as its Chief Operating Officer from 2014 until March 2025. Under his leadership, SEIF trained over 360,000 underprivileged youth through its vocational skill development programs, supported more than 20,000 farmers with clean energy-based livelihood solutions, and electrified over 50,000 rural households through dedicated rural electrification programs.

He holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Electrical Engineering from NIT Rourkela (1993–1997) and an Executive MBA in General Management from TAPMI (2005–2007).

SHRI SAURABH SRIVASTAVA

Vice President Sales & Marketing
EPACK Durable Limited

Mr. Saurabh Srivastava brings over 21 years of rich experience across Sales & Program Management, Market Analysis, Budgeting & Financing, and Strategic Planning.

He holds a Bachelor's degree of Commerce from Delhi University and a Master's degree in Management from the Institute of Management Studies. He has also completed a post-graduate program in Sales & Marketing from the National Institute of Sales (NIS, Delhi).

Over the course of his career, he has been associated with Uno Minda, Joyson Anand Abhishek Safety System, Anand Automotive, Mahle Behr India, Calsonic Kansei Motherson Auto Products, ICI India, and Viny Royal Plasticoates.

CHEF SANJEEB GHATAK

Indian Federation of Culinary
Associations (IFCA)

Chef Sanjeeb Ghatak is a highly accomplished culinary and hospitality professional with decades of diverse experience across hotels, luxury resorts, flight kitchens, corporate catering, hospitals, offshore projects, retail outlets, and quick service restaurants (QSRs). Beginning his career as a Management Trainee at Hotel Hans Plaza, New Delhi, he has held leadership roles with prestigious brands such as Radisson Goa, Taj Exotica Goa, Oberoi Flight Services, Gate Gourmet, Compass Group, Best Western, and Devyani International. Over the years, he has earned numerous awards and accolades for his excellence in culinary innovation, leadership, and operational expertise.

Renowned for his ability to lead multicultural teams, design and implement training programs, plan menus across global cuisines, and drive end-to-end F&B concepts, Chef Ghatak blends creativity with strategic acumen. Currently, he serves as the Chief Operating Officer of MB Chicken India, the Indian arm of one of Canada's premium fried chicken brands, where he is spearheading an ambitious national expansion plan. His passion for food, commitment to quality, and deep industry knowledge make him a respected leader in the hospitality domain.

SHRI V.V. SURENDRA ATCHYAM

Senior Manager
BSES Rajdhani Power Limited

V. V. Surendra Atchyam is a seasoned professional with over a decade of experience in India's power sector, currently serving as Senior Manager, DSM & PAT Cell at BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), a joint venture of Reliance Infrastructure and the Government of NCT of Delhi. At BRPL, he has been instrumental in advancing energy efficiency and demand-side management initiatives that align with India's clean energy and climate goals. His contributions span the design and implementation of pioneering programs such as the Behavioral Energy Efficiency (BEE) Program in partnership with Oracle Utilities, the Energy Wise Energy Rise (EWER) student awareness initiative with TERI, large-scale consumer efficiency programs like UJALA and AC replacement schemes, as well as India's first Automated Demand Response (ADR) demonstration.

He began his career at Samalkot Power Limited (Reliance Power), where he worked on commissioning and operating a Combined Cycle Gas Power Plant, before moving into the utility side to focus on DSM and consumer engagement. Surendra has also actively collaborated with NREL and GTG-RISE on research for "Preparing Distribution Utilities for the Future – Unlocking DSM Potential." His expertise includes the implementation of energy-efficient techniques, DSM interventions, and consumer outreach. He holds an M.Tech from NIT Trichy and a B.Tech in Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

MS KAVITA TIWARI

Lead International
Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor
to the Government of India

Kavita is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in building strategic alliances across government, multilaterals, and the private sector to advance sustainability, innovation, and climate action. Currently serving in the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India, she leads high-impact collaborations that drive science, technology, and innovation for national and global priorities.

She has played a pivotal role in flagship initiatives, including the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, COP27, Gram Ujala, KUSUM Project, and Switch Delhi Campaign for e-mobility. With prior experience at CDP and EESL, Kavita has successfully mobilized resources, forged cross-sector partnerships, and steered programs on energy efficiency and corporate sustainability.

SPECIAL SESSIONS ON RESEARCH IN CLEAN COOKING

SHRI SUNIL MANI

Policy Advisor
International Institute for Sustainable Development

Sunil is a Policy Advisor with IISD's Energy Program, where his research focuses on clean cooking, energy access, just energy transitions, and budgeting for net-zero scenarios in India. Prior to joining IISD, he spent seven years as a researcher at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), analyzing household and community energy access through a multidimensional lens and contributing to corrective policy measures.
Based in India, Sunil holds undergraduate and Master's degrees in quantitative economics from Delhi University and Shiv Nadar University, respectively, with quantitative research forming the core of his work.

SHRI BIRAJ GAUTAM

Chief Executive Officer of People
PEEDA

Biraj Gautam is the Chief Executive Officer of the People, Energy and Environment Development Association (PEEDA), Nepal. A renewable energy professional with over 15 years of experience, he has worked extensively on rural energy solutions across Nepal, India, Bhutan, and the USA.

Since 2018, Biraj has been leading electric cooking initiatives, beginning with research in off-grid micro-hydro communities and now scaling up to programs targeting 10,000 households and 100 schools. He also spearheads research on eCooking in enterprises and solar mini-grids, including international projects in West Africa. He is the lead author of the Nepal eCookbook, ideator of the Induction Stove and Electric Pressure Cooker Repair Manual, and co-author of multiple peer-reviewed journals and research blogs.

His work is at the forefront of advancing the clean cooking transition in Nepal and beyond.

DR NEH SATSANGI

Senior Analyst- Programme Management and Research
Finovista

Dr. Neh Satsangi is a Senior Analyst- Programme Management and Research at Finovista, with a strong academic and research background in Nanobiotechnology and Vector control. She holds a Ph.D. in Nanobiotechnology under DST- INSPIRE Fellowship from Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra, in collaboration with the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi.

At Finovista, she plays a key role in several flagship initiatives under the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) Programme. Her contributions include electric appliance and country mapping, development of the Indian eCookbook, Entrepreneurship development programmes in clean cooking, and community engagement through "Women in Clean Cooking". She has also worked on high-impact projects like the National Bamboo Innovation Challenge, UK-India Innovation Partnership Initiatives, and Digital Manufacturing Mapping Studies.

Dr. Satsangi has published several research papers in reputed journals and is passionate about promoting sustainable technologies and gender-inclusive innovation. Her work has been recognized with the Best Paper Award, a prestigious fellowship, and medals throughout her academic career.

MS SUMEDHA AWASTHY

Senior Associate
CLASP

Sumedha Awasthy has six years of experience in renewable energy, climate change, rural enterprise capacity building, and energy efficiency. At CLASP, she contributes to advancing clean energy and sustainable solutions. Prior to this, she worked with the Centre for Science and Environment, where she designed clean cooking programs and managed renewable energy projects.

Earlier in her career at the International Institute for Energy Conservation, she worked on state climate action plans, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and GHG accounting across Indian states and cities. She also contributed to projects on farmer-producer company capacity building in Maharashtra and was part of the World Bank's RISE team, evaluating energy sector readiness across 43 countries.

Sumedha is a participant in the Clean Cooking Alliance mentorship program and actively volunteers with a non-profit creating awareness on breast cancer. She holds a Master's degree in Resource Management and Design Application from the University of Delhi and has completed a certificate course in Sustainable Business Practices from Harvard Business School.

SHRI JATIN MATHUR

Associate
CLASP

Jatin Mathur is a policy professional with three years of experience across various domains of public policy and a specialization in energy governance. At CLASP, Jatin supports research and analysis work in the Clean Energy Access (CEA) Program. Prior to CLASP, Jatin was involved with the National Economic Forum (NEF), where he conducted research on issues around sustainability, the digital economy & trade, and welfare policies. Additionally, he has undertaken policy research internships for flagship organizations like UNDP, CEEW, EY India, and Prayas (Energy Group), focusing on sectors such as energy, environment, trade, and livelihoods.

Holding a Master's degree in Public Policy (MPP) from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and Environmental Law and Policy from the National Law University (NLU) Delhi, Jatin has cultivated a rich, interdisciplinary academic foundation in policy research and analysis. His work on a CEEW report on decentralized renewable energy (DRE) solutions has been published and presented at the 4th Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG) Meeting of the G20 2023, under India's presidency. Outside of work, Jatin enjoys trekking in the mountains, visiting national parks, and reading history.

PARTNER PROFILES

NITI (NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR TRANSFORMING INDIA) AAYOG

NITI Aayog serves as the apex public policy think tank of the Government of India, and the nodal agency tasked with catalysing economic development, and fostering cooperative federalism through the involvement of State Governments in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach. It focuses on long-term planning, progress monitoring, fostering innovation, and promoting inclusive growth, particularly for underrepresented sections of society. NITI Aayog is developing itself as a state-of-the-art resource centre with the necessary knowledge and skills that will enable it to act with speed, promote research and innovation, provide strategic policy vision for the government, and deal with contingent issues.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The Government of India established the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) in November 1999. The PSA's office aims to provide pragmatic and objective advice to the Prime Minister and the cabinet in matters of Science and Technology. The Office of PSA was placed under the Cabinet Secretariat in August, 2018. S&T fundamentals with applied research in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, both in central and state governments. Enabling future preparedness in emerging domains of science and technology. Formulating and coordinating major inter-ministerial S&T missions. Providing an enabling ecosystem for technology led innovations and techno-entrepreneurship. Driving innovation and technology delivery towards solving socio-economic challenges for sustainable growth. Fostering effective public-private linkages for driving research and innovation, sectors, energy sources.

PARTNER PROFILES

ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICES LIMITED (EESL)

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is a Super Energy Service Company (ESCO), which enables consumers, industries and governments to effectively manage their energy needs through energy efficient technologies. EESL is implementing the world's largest energy efficiency portfolio across sectors like lighting, buildings, industry electric mobility, smart metering, agriculture, etc. at an enormous scale. EESL's energy efficiency solutions have saved India over 47 billion kWh energy annually while reducing 36.5 million tons of carbon emission. Founded in 2009, EESL is promoted by Ministry of Power, Government of India as a Joint Venture of four reputed public- sector undertakings NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation Limited, REC Limited and POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited. EESL focuses on solution-driven innovation without taking support of any subsidy from the Govt.

THE GLOBAL ENERGY ALLIANCE FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET (GEAPP)

The Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet builds transformative public, private, philanthropic partnerships to end energy poverty and accelerate green economic opportunity, With more than 50 partners worldwide, including governments, businesses, investors, development banks, community groups and philanthropies, we convene the right actors with the right expertise to match the challenges we face. These multi-sectoral partnerships engage every part of the value chain from households to heads of state. By pooling resources and expertise, our Alliance can unlock investments, upskill workforces, empower communities, overcome bottlenecks and reshape entire energy systems.

PARTNER PROFILES

COLLABORATIVE LABELING AND APPLIANCE STANDARDS PROGRAM (CLASP)

CLASP, an international NGO, is the leading global authority on efficient appliances' role in fighting climate change and improving people's lives. To control emissions and provide universal access to critical services like cooling and cooking, the global community must urgently prioritize energy-efficient and affordable appliances.

Through policy advice, innovative finance approaches, and data and evidence, CLASP works with governments, industry leaders, and other experts to identify pathways for improved appliance efficiency for people and the planet.

CHINTAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION (CRF)

Chintan means reflection—a pursuit of knowledge that drives change. Chintan Research Foundation (CRF) is an independent think tank dedicated to shaping policy through rigorous research and thought leadership. With a strong focus on fostering collaboration between policymakers and industry, CRF integrates practical insights into its research and advocacy efforts. We conduct in-depth policy and sectoral analysis, engaging with policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders through discussions, events, and publications.

PARTNER PROFILES

MODERN ENERGY COOKING SERVICES (MECS)

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 (Lifestylefor Environment) campaigns launched by the Government of India.

FINOVISTA

Finovista is a leading global Service Provider based in India, specializing in Technical Assistance, Program Management, Capacity Building, and In-country Representation in key development sectors. Our expertise lies in sectors crucial to sustainability and global development, including Clean cooking , Energy transition, Livelihood and Defence . With a strong commitment to delivering innovative solutions and driving positive change, we have a proven track record of successful program management and implementation. Our extensive partnerships extend to Development Agencies, Governments, Universities, Business Chambers, Corporates, Startups, and SMEs.