



“NEW FRONTIERS: A Programme on Renewable Energy”

Women in Renewable Energy– Call for Action

17th February 2022, 14:00-16:00 (IST), Virtual

Concept Note

There is a clear link between a nation’s progress and women’s economic empowerment and well-being. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and International Solar Alliance (ISA) have been deliberating on ways and means to enhance employment opportunities for women in the Renewable Energy sector, and on improving their socio-economic status through focused design and deployment of decentralized RE applications, particularly in the rural areas of the country. These deliberations were initiated at the webinar ‘**Women in Renewable Energy and Sustainability**’, **jointly hosted by the ISA and MNRE on 7 July, 2021, as part of the UN High Level Dialogue on Energy**. There was representation from UN Women, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), EESL Convergence, Kinetic Green, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA), Barefoot College, Frontier Markets, and Skill Council for Green Jobs. **Further to this, at the Fourth Assembly of the ISA on 21 October, 2021, the ISA and UNEP organised a discussion on Enhancing the Capacity of Women to Support Energy Transition.**

Following Key points emerged from the two discussions:

- Short-term to medium term planning is required to initiate programmatic and systemic interventions for encouraging women participation in RE sector.
- Collaborations are needed for fostering green skilling programs for women and finding a better way to build successful pathways for their sustainable livelihoods.
- There is a need for a study for aggregation of gender-based empirical data related to energy sector, so that interventions can be designed for the benefit of women.
- National Banks should find ways for a just assessment of the creditworthiness of women who need financial assistance in Renewable Energy Sector.

- Best practices should be shared amongst relevant stakeholders at international, national and sub national levels. Also a charter of activities should be drawn up in consultation with participating organisations.
- Impact investors should be mobilized- there is an **investor consortium already in place with UNDP and NITI AAYOG where women entrepreneurs are invited to submit their business propositions.** One-on-one pitching sessions can be facilitated to get funding in this regard.
- Round table discussions should be convened to build technical knowledge among small and medium enterprises on how to run RE businesses.
- ISA's role in sharing technology and best practices with other member countries as well as leveraging the expertise of member states should be strengthened .
- Impact Assessment

The above points reaffirm that for inclusive energy transition, providing institutional support to women at the local level, adequate capacity building programmes in RE, mentoring opportunities to lead businesses, tailored financial mechanisms for assistance to women RE entrepreneurs and knowledge sharing by actors should be the priorities of the decision makers.

We believe that now is the time for concrete action on the recommendations. The session **“Women in RE – Call for Action,”** during the RE Week being organised as a part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav commemoration on 17 February 2022 is formulated keeping this need in mind. While the responsibility for action is a shared one between MNRE, ISA, Industry and NGOs, the major part of action would lie with the Industry. We have therefore included companies and associations in the RE sector in the proposed deliberations. The invitation to the participants will be accompanied by a clear articulation of the expectations from them. We have made effort to make this webinar different from others- RE women entrepreneurs' will be sharing their experiences with the audience in the first half of the session followed by the response to call for action by the stakeholders. A joint action agenda will be released by the participating institutions at the end of the discussion laying the future course of action. We also envisage setting up of an institutional mechanism with representation from stakeholders for taking the action forward and monitoring progress in this regard.

Each of the four stakeholders has a major role to play in the task before us. MNRE could contribute through policy and designing of Scheme at a later stage and also coordinate with the industry. NGOs would bring valuable real life experience and challenges from the field that need to be addressed. This could feed both into designing of a scheme at a later stage and also in the design and deployment of tailored solutions for women. Industry clearly will act as an employer of women but could contribute in the development of decentralized customised RE products for women. ISA could provide the necessary support to scale up efforts for women entrepreneurs in Member countries by providing a strong platform to diverse stakeholders for knowledge sharing.

Tentative Agenda*

WOMEN IN RENEWABLE ENERGY: CALL TO ACTION

17/02/2022, 14:00 – 16:00 HRS (IST)

Duration 2 Hours, Mode: Virtual

Duration	Program
14:00 to 14:05	Setting the Context by Secretary, MNRE
14:05 to 15:05	Moderated Discussion with women Beneficiaries from: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. SEWA2. Barefoot College3. SELCO4. JEEVIKA5. CLEAN6. SUSTAINPLUS
15:05 to 15:50	Call to Action Discussion/Presentation by: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1: Industry Associations2: NGOs3: Financial Institutions4: ISA
15:50 to 16:00	Summing up by MNRE

*Subject to confirmation