



BEST

INDIA - CASE STUDY FOR BIOENERGY APPLICATIONS

HALDER PRADIPTA*

The growing Indian economy is already the third largest economy in the world. The country faces mounting energy supply constraints and almost 850 million Indians are dependent on biomass fuels for cooking and heating. The significance of modern bioenergy industries is therefore, unquestionable to meet the clean energy challenges of this large population and also to provide the country a viable solution for achieving her renewable energy aspirations.

BEST (Sustainable Bioenergy Solutions for Tomorrow – Case India) is a consortium of several highly acclaimed Finnish universities, research institutions, and companies that, through research, collaboration and investments, aims to develop the Indian bioenergy sector to address the current and future energy challenges of the country. This joint effort has the possibility to realize the huge business opportunities in the bioenergy sector in India that are currently untapped to a large extent. Specific and innovative research, partnership, and networking between the Finnish organizations (UEF, VTT, TUT, Arbonaut, Fortum, Valmet, and Stora Enso) and Indian collaborators (TERI and others) can be instrumental to realize this business potential.

There is now enhanced knowledge and common understanding among the BEST partners about the opportunities and challenges in the Indian bioenergy sector. Implementation of plans such as improving biomass supply chain through modern technologies, increasing farmers' willingness to supply biomass by providing them better support systems, setting up advanced waste management facilities in urban areas for energy production, and enabling policy framework are the key prerequisites for developing a successful bioenergy sector in the country such as biomass-based CHP clusters and co-generation facilities. The BEST consortium has thus set its agenda high on finding social, environmental, economic and technological solutions through scientific and systemic approaches for the emerging bioenergy sector in India.

*pradipta.halder (at) uef.fi