



MOVE FOR EARTH SYMPOSIUM

Coming Together to **INSPIRE** Climate Action

ODISHA

11th September 2024

www.SwitchON.org.in

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Introduction

Move For Earth Symposium is an annual event hosted by SwitchON Foundation that serves as a pivotal platform, uniting leaders, government officials, non-profits, investors, academia, grassroots communities, farmers, women Self help groups, FPOs, children and youth to engage in insightful discussions on Inspiring Climate Action. The purpose is to foster collaboration to inspire climate action and strategise towards achieving a net-zero economy.

Themes



Climate Resilient Agriculture

Distributed Renewable Energy

Clean Air and Decarbonizing Industries

The Move For Earth Odisha Symposium was held on 11th September 2024 in partnership with Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Deemed to be University at The Convention Centre, Campus 6, KIIT, Bhubaneswar.

500+

Participants

The symposium featured keynotes, plenary sessions, workshops, Hackathons, sustainable exhibits, spotlight stories fostering dialogue and knowledge exchange. Emphasis was placed on exploring innovative technologies, sharing best practices, and identifying actionable strategies for environmental sustainability.

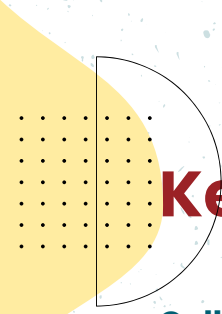
40+

Speakers and Experts

Partners



SELCO FOUNDATION



Key Highlights

Collective Climate Action

The Move for Earth Symposium was a unique platform that brought together a diverse group of participants fostered collaboration and dialogue among these stakeholders, aiming to inspire collective action toward addressing climate change and progressing towards a net-zero economy.

Innovative Solutions for Climate Resilience

The symposium emphasized knowledge sharing and the exploration of innovative technologies to transform environmental sustainability efforts. Through keynotes, workshops, and interactive sessions, participants gained insights into climate-resilient agriculture, distributed renewable energy, and clean air initiatives. The discussions also highlighted decarbonizing industries and solutions that could drive progress toward a more sustainable future.

Strategic Partnerships for Sustainable Impact

The Move for Earth Symposium focused on cultivating robust partnerships among various stakeholders. These partnerships aimed to create a collaborative ecosystem where diverse participants could work together to drive tangible outcomes.

Engaged Youth and Grassroots Communities

One of the symposium's core missions was to actively engage youth, grassroots communities, and marginalized groups like women SHGs and farmers. By involving these voices, the symposium ensured that climate action strategies were inclusive and addressed the needs of those most impacted by environmental challenges.

Action-Oriented Workshops and Sustainable Exhibits

The Move for Earth Symposium offered a variety of workshops, hackathons, and sustainable exhibits that allowed participants to immerse themselves in hands-on learning. These sessions facilitated deep dives into topics such as renewable energy and sustainable farming techniques, enabling stakeholders to share best practices and co-create actionable strategies that could be implemented at local and regional level.

Agenda and Sessions

The Move for Earth Symposium 2024 featured a dynamic and engaging agenda designed to cater to the diverse needs and interests of participants. The full day event offered several sessions including roundtable discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities to foster collaboration, innovation, and learning.

3 Roundtable Discussions

6 Workshops

Odisha Greenovation Hackathon

Sustainable Exhibition



Organizer's Note

The Move For Earth Symposium, an annual event hosted by SwitchON Foundation, has emerged as a key platform to unite diverse stakeholders in the fight against climate change. The Odisha Symposium, held on 11th September 2024 in partnership with Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) at their Convention Centre, Campus 6, brought together over 500 participants, including leaders from government, nonprofits, academia, grassroots communities, and industry. The event saw active engagement from farmers, women self-help groups, FPOs, and youth, fostering an inclusive dialogue around inspiring climate action.

The symposium aimed to foster collaboration to drive forward strategies for achieving a net-zero economy, with discussions centered around critical themes such as Climate Resilient Agriculture, Distributed Renewable Energy, Clean Air, and Decarbonizing Industries. Through insightful keynotes, roundtable sessions, and interactive workshops, the event explored cutting-edge innovations and best practices in sustainability.

With over 40 esteemed speakers and experts contributing their knowledge, this year's symposium laid a strong foundation for partnerships and solutions that can make a real impact on both environmental sustainability and community development. We are grateful to all the participants, speakers, and partners like KIIT, Deemed to be University, Socratus, WASSAN, Utkal Chamber of Commerce, KIIT TBI and Selco Foundation who made this event a success, and we look forward to continuing this journey of inspiring collective action for a greener, more resilient future.



Ekta jaju

Co-Founder

SwitchON Foundation





Special Note from Mayor, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

We must come together to ensure a sustainable future. Earth is our mother, and as her children, it's our duty to protect her for future generations. The impact of human actions—like wasting water, polluting the soil, deforestation, and increasing carbon emissions—has led to significant challenges such as climate change, health issues, and natural disasters.

Urbanization and unchecked population growth are straining the environment, and we are experiencing the consequences, from extreme weather to health crises. However, achieving sustainability is not the job of the government alone—it requires everyone's participation.

Through small actions like cycling, using electric vehicles, planting trees, waste segregation, and reducing plastic use, we can make a big difference. Initiatives like Earth Hour show how simple efforts can save energy and help the planet. By adopting sustainable practices like reducing, recycling, and reusing in our daily lives, we can create a better world for ourselves and future generations.

Platforms like the Move For Earth Symposium provide an exceptional opportunity to unite diverse stakeholders, fostering collective knowledge and skills to drive impactful climate action.. I am especially proud to highlight that the event was organized by a dedicated team of women, underscoring the critical role women play in leading the charge for sustainable change. It's a powerful reminder that with collaboration and inclusivity, we can turn the tide towards a greener, more resilient future.



OPENING KEYNOTE

Mrs. Namrata Chadha

Reflecting on the Path to Sustainable Development

Honouring Farmers and Recognizing Their Role

One of the most pressing realities we must face is the critical situation of our farmers, who live and often die under the weight of debts and loans.

Despite their tireless labour, which fills our plates every day, we fail to give them the respect they deserve. Our farmers are the backbone of the nation, yet they remain undervalued. This is a grave injustice. Until we start respecting our farmers and valuing their contribution, nothing significant can be achieved in our journey toward sustainable development.

The Disconnect Between Policy and Practice

There is a massive disconnect between what is preached and what is practiced, particularly when it comes to the environment. We sit in air-conditioned rooms, discussing environmental conservation while consuming energy at alarming rates. We talk about reducing carbon footprints, yet our lifestyles don't reflect those values. This double standard is evident not only at an individual level but also at the global scale, where powerful nations dominate the less powerful. Developed countries exploit natural resources mercilessly, impose their practices on developing nations, and then criticize us for being underdeveloped. This cycle must end, and it starts with understanding the international lobbies and policies that keep us in this trap.

Empowering Change through Policy and Perception

The Move for Earth Symposium is not just about discussions; it's about creating actionable change. We have within us the power to influence and reshape policies for a sustainable future. But to do so, we must first change our perception. Today's culture, driven by celebrity endorsements and flashy lifestyles, has distorted our values. Whether it's the constant promotion of unhealthy fast food or environmentally destructive products, these influences are shaping the choices of our youth. We must shift away from this mindset and take pride in our own culture, particularly in the wisdom of our agricultural traditions.



Celebrating Indian Values and Traditions

In India, we have a deep-rooted respect for the earth, and this is beautifully symbolized in festivals like Raja in Odisha, where Mother Earth is worshipped. Such traditions reflect our inherent value system of nurturing the environment, which is something we must celebrate and teach to every corner of our country. These practices are not outdated—they are essential to ensuring that our land prospers. We must proudly carry forward these values as part of our strategy toward climate resilience.

A Call to Simplify and Sustain

As we move forward, the path to a developed India is through simplicity, sustainability, and shared responsibility. We must adopt a simpler way of life, one that ensures we are not contributing to the destruction of our environment. Every individual has an equal right to natural resources, but with that right comes the responsibility to use them wisely. Developed India will only happen if every stomach is fed in the right way, and that starts with honoring and empowering our farmers.

Conclusion: A Collective Responsibility for a Sustainable Future

Let us remember that our actions today will shape the future for generations to come. We must strive for sustainability, not just in words but in practice. Through collaboration and collective effort, we can pave the way for a greener, more resilient India. The Move for Earth Symposium has brought together resourceful individuals who have the power to drive change. Together, let us harness this collective strength to create a sustainable future where our land prospers, our farmers thrive, and every citizen lives in harmony with nature.



Roundtable Discussions | Inspiring Stories of Climate Resilient Farming in Odisha

Session Partners:

WASSAN & Socratus

Chairperson :

Mr. Rashmi Ranjan Nayak,
OAS Project Director OIIPCRA cum
Additional secretary to Govt of Odisha.

Moderator :

Mr. Ansuman Pattnayak,
Agriculture Expert

Speakers:

Mr. Rama Chandra Tosh
Associate State Coordinator, WASSAN

Mr. Devjit Mitra
Director, Socratus

Ms. Rashmi Adlekha
ED, Harsha Trust

Ms. Jyoti Rekha
Team Coordinator, Pradan

Mr. Nirmalendu Jyotishi
General Manager, FES

Mr. Bhanja Prasad Patro
Director and Head, CIPET

Mr. Arabinda Mishra
Chairperson, Development and
Environment Futures Trust

Ms. Anisha Anustupa
Sr. Program Manager- Livelihood, CYSD

Mr. Rashmi Ranjan Nayak

emphasized the importance of strengthening community facilitation through non-political and inclusive Pani Panchayats (water user committees) to ensure effective water resource management. He highlighted the need for an integrated approach that combines water management, cold chain supply chains, climate-resilient agriculture (CRA), and climate-smart agriculture (CSA) to comprehensively address the multifaceted challenges in the agricultural sector. Additionally, he stressed the importance of reviewing and improving the Public Distribution System (PDS) procurement processes to enhance efficiency and service delivery.

His suggestions included promoting water literacy to improve community understanding of water resources, implementing effective irrigation scheduling, and encouraging the adoption of micro-irrigation techniques

to enhance water efficiency. He also advocated for the use of technology-based monitoring systems to track water usage, incentivizing water management programs, and promoting solar-powered irrigation systems to reduce dependency on conventional energy sources. Furthermore, he recommended the use of mulching and hydrogel techniques to enhance soil moisture retention, supporting zero-tillage practices for water conservation, and fostering collaborative efforts among stakeholders and NGOs to achieve comprehensive water management goals, irrespective of government involvement.

Mr. Rama Chandra Tosh

brought to the forefront the necessity of developing a comprehensive end-to-end infrastructure solutions to ensure seamless connectivity and support across all stages of agricultural processes. He highlighted the importance of adopting an ecosystem development approach, which integrates agriculture, water management, and community engagement to promote holistic growth in rural communities.

One of the key innovative approaches he advocated was participatory machine development, where farmers and local stakeholders are actively involved in the creation and design of agricultural machinery. This ensures that the equipment is practical, efficient, and tailored to meet the specific needs of the farmers, ultimately fostering a more inclusive and sustainable agricultural system.

Mr. Devjit Mitra

advocated for presenting Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) as part of a broader ecosystem approach to enhance its effectiveness and long-term viability. He emphasized the importance of managing and controlling ecosystems to bolster agricultural resilience, arguing that a holistic understanding of environmental interconnections is essential for sustainable farming practices. He urged for the promotion of crop diversification, coupled with capacity-building initiatives for farmers to equip them with the skills necessary for adopting diverse cropping systems. Recognizing the challenges posed by rampant migration, he called for the implementation of measures aimed at mitigating excessive out-migration, which can significantly affect agricultural communities and their productivity. Furthermore, he stressed that strengthening community resilience is crucial for ensuring overall agricultural sustainability, as empowered communities are better positioned to adapt to changing climatic conditions and safeguard their livelihoods.

Ms. Rashmi Adlekha

outlined a comprehensive set of innovative approaches aimed at enhancing agricultural resilience and sustainability across 16 districts and 66 blocks. One of the core strategies focuses on climate adaptation, including the implementation of staggered nurseries to manage plant growth and optimize yields.

Varietal changes were introduced, promoting drought- and flood-tolerant crops, such as shorter-duration paddy, while diverse cropping methods, like using cowpea as a border crop and reddish as an intercrop, were applied to improve soil health and productivity.

A key aspect of Adlekha's approach is effective resource management to support sustainable livelihoods and address conflicting agricultural missions, such as maize and millet programs, ensuring coherent strategy execution. The initiative also strengthened livestock productivity and promoted sustainable enterprises to diversify income sources for rural communities.

In terms of water governance, Adlekha advocated for treating water as a common property and emphasized the importance of strong governance practices to manage this vital resource. Additionally, efforts to improve literacy and provide training in natural resource management (NRM) governance and climate-resilient practices were seen as essential to empowering local communities and enhancing their ability to adapt to changing climatic conditions.

Ms. Jyoti Rekha

advocated for a focus on innovative approaches to enhance the agricultural ecosystem and promote sustainability. She highlighted the importance of integrating non-toxic, safe food practices into the agrisystem to ensure food quality and safety. A strong advocate for seed sovereignty, Jyoti stressed the importance of farmers retaining control over their seeds and addressing the male-centric nature of the current system.

She also underlined the significance of prioritizing soil health and promoting drought-tolerant varieties like Sahabhagi CV of rice, along with mixed cropping techniques such as ginger and coriander to build resilience and address issues like root rot.

Jyoti reaffirmed the need for the role of natural farming, advocating for non-pesticide management, bio inputs, and preserving local seed varieties. She also discussed strategies for reducing agricultural costs, such as improved seed treatment and line spacing techniques to increase yield. Jyoti urged for socially inclusive agricultural practices that support gender balance, particularly in fertilizer use and seed management. Additionally, she stressed the importance of integrated resource management, including maintaining farm ponds, and leveraging NREGA to support farmers and rural development.

However, she acknowledged key challenges such as the value chain gap in the agricultural ecosystem, the lack of subsidies for organic farming compared to inorganic practices, and the growing impact of climate change on farming communities.

Mr. Nirmalendu Jyotishi

emphasized the critical role of water management in sustainable agriculture, advocating for the prioritization of water storage and management practices. He highlighted the use of the GIZ-based composite land and water assessment system, developed in collaboration with IIT Roorkee, which incorporates GIS-based tools to assess land use patterns, slopes, and other factors, aiding in scientific planning.

Nirmalendu also stressed the importance of groundwater recharge planning, encouraging farmers to incorporate crop water budgeting into their strategies.

A systematic approach to agriculture, from initial planning to post-harvest, with a focus on a landscape perspective, was another innovative solution presented. To strengthen agricultural development, he advocated for enhancing extension work to build strong networks that disseminate crucial information and facilitate adoption of best practices. Nirmalendu also highlighted the significance of the composite land assessment tool in identifying risk zones and planning water structures, encouraging collective approaches in agriculture from planning to sales.

Furthermore, he called for greater government involvement and coordination between departments and stakeholders, while ensuring that extension workers are well-equipped to provide critical support to farmers. These approaches are aimed at promoting more efficient and sustainable agricultural practices at scale.

Mr. Bhanja Prasad Patro

pointed out the critical role of plastics and polymer coatings in modern agriculture, highlighting their applications in fertilizers, seeds, irrigation systems, livestock identification, fishing gear, and horticultural mulching. He urged stakeholders to recognize the positive aspects of plastic materials, advocating for their careful and efficient usage to optimize agricultural practices. By promoting the 4 Rs—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover,

the importance of responsible plastic management to mitigate environmental impacts can be taken care of.

He called for technical support in developing and implementing biodegradable plastics, emphasizing their potential to advance biocompostability as a sustainable alternative for the future. Furthermore, he championed energy-efficient resources, advocating for reduced plastic use through eco-friendly alternatives such as greenhouses, mulching techniques, drip irrigation systems, and sustainable packaging solutions. Despite these innovative approaches, Patro acknowledged the challenge posed by a lack of awareness among farmers regarding the conservation of natural resources, particularly water, which must be addressed to enhance sustainable agricultural practices.

Mr. Arabinda Mishra

asserted the importance of a holistic approach to Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA), stressing that its implementation should extend beyond individual farms to encompass an integrated system that is both sustainable and resilient. He highlighted the importance of identifying the climate resilience of current models and determining the most suitable climate models for specific contexts. A robust insurance scheme is essential to safeguard farmers against unforeseen climatic events, and he called for resilience throughout the entire agricultural value chain.

He reiterated the urgency of adopting appropriate practices tailored for small and marginal farmers, alongside fostering psychological resilience

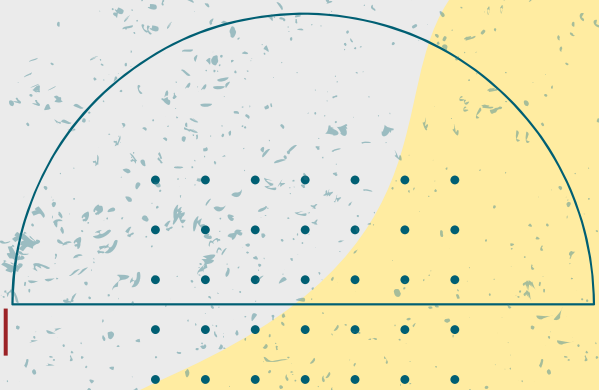
among farmers through budgetary support for natural farming and establishing bio-resource centers at the panchayat level. However, he noted significant challenges that impede progress, such as the uncertainty in weather forecasting, which complicates risk preparedness and the effectiveness of insurance mechanisms. Marketing difficulties continue to hinder farmers in Odisha from effectively selling their produce, while inadequate cold storage facilities further exacerbate issues related to the preservation and distribution of perishable goods. Lastly, the absence of essential infrastructure between farms and markets remains a critical barrier to enhancing the agricultural landscape in the region.

Ms. Anisha Anustupa

highlighted the importance of integrating climate-resilient practices with community-led initiatives in rural and tribal areas. She emphasized the collaboration with Gram Panchayats to incorporate sustainable development plans, safe migration strategies, and climate-resilient agriculture into local governance. Anisha also discussed the establishment of bio-input centers within Panchayats to promote eco-friendly farming practices. Additionally, she shared insights on the carbon credit project in South Odisha, which targets 15,000 hectares and 18,000 farmers, using satellite-based technology to measure carbon sequestration.

She stressed the importance of policy research and budget consultations with the state government to advocate for sustainable agriculture and improved irrigation systems.

However, she also pointed out several challenges, including network issues in remote areas, difficulties with the operation and maintenance of solar units, and marketing linkages for cold storage. To address these challenges, CYSD is collaborating with the Selco Foundation to provide training and technical support for solar systems, and is focused on developing climate models for seasonal guidance. Anisha emphasized the need for collective efforts from NGOs, government bodies, and private entities to reinvest in farming and ensure inclusiveness, particularly for women farmers.





Key Takeaways

- Improving the accuracy of weather forecasting can significantly aid planning and decision-making in agricultural practices.
- Addressing water scarcity through improved irrigation infrastructure and efficient management systems can enhance agricultural sustainability.
- Developing adequate cold storage and transportation facilities can enhance the preservation and marketing of agricultural produce.
- Providing knowledge and training can increase the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies among farmers.
- Supporting initiatives to promote and implement crop diversification strategies can strengthen resilience during critical planting seasons.
- Enhancing financial incentives and support for farmers can encourage the adoption of climate-smart practices and technologies.
- Creating better access to markets and ensuring fair pricing for agricultural produce can enhance the economic viability of climate-smart practices.



Roundtable Discussions | Promoting DRE & Green Technologies for Enhancing Farmers Income

Session Partners:

Selco Foundation

Chairperson :

Prof. Mahendra Kumar Mohanty
BPCL Biofuel Chair, OUAT

Moderator :

Mr. Goutam Kumar Pradhan
Sr. Advisor, Selco Foundation

Speakers:

Mrs. Namrata Chadha
President, MAADHYAM

Ms. Lalita Kumar Jena
DGM, OAIC

Mrs. Abha Mishra
Head of Office Odisha, UNDP

Mrs. Biraj laxmi Sarangi
Project Director, PCI India

Mr. Shubhabrata Rath
Regional Director, ASSOCHAM

Mr. Satyapriya Sahu
State Lead, SELCO Foundation

Mr. Gunajit Dev Sarma
Program Lead, iForest

Mr. Kamlesh Mohanty
Secretary, Sanjog

Prof. Mahendra Kumar Mohanty

discussed the evolution of solar technology, noting that while costs were high 30 years ago, it is now much more feasible. However, despite ample funding in the agricultural industry, there is a lack of coordination between different departments, such as the need to work with the energy department for solar systems. As part of an inquiry team, he visited six out of 150 government-installed solar cold storages in Odisha and observed issues like inadequate facilities and insufficient capacity building. He emphasized the high costs of on-grid systems and the importance of a reliable controller for solar energy management.

Mr. Goutam Kumar Pradhan

introduced the concept of DRE & Green Technologies and their significance in enhancing farmers' income in Odisha. He provided examples of other states and how Odisha is doing in terms of DRE & Green Technology.

He talked about India's renewable energy target of 500 GW and pointed out the underrepresentation of DRE. He reviewed government programs like PM KUSUM, which promotes solar pumps, but noted gaps between farmers and the government, along with a lack of CSR investment in RE and DRE. He pointed out key challenges included schemes, funding, manpower.

Mrs. Namrata Chadha

highlighted her work with women in rural and tribal areas, emphasizing the need to balance increasing farmers' incomes with promoting renewable energy, like solar pumps, in agriculture. She stressed that introducing renewable energy in farming and setting up solar plants are distinct processes. Odisha requires strong policies to protect agricultural land from being converted into hotels or big houses, as this could harm farmers. She warned that directly transferring money to farmers under schemes can be risky. Instead, support through training, installing solar pumps, and making gradual investments will benefit farmers in the long run. She also pointed out that women farmers are often neglected, urging for inclusiveness in agriculture. NGOs, the government, and private entities profiting from farming should reinvest in it. She advocated for a larger agriculture budget to support these initiatives.

Mr. Lalita Kumar Jena

DGM of OAIC, highlighted their solar projects, starting with a pilot in 2002 involving 240 installations. For 2023-24, they plan to install 4,000 solar projects under a government program, with a budget increase from ₹136 crore last

year to ₹300 crore, targeting 6,000 projects. He noted electricity cuts as a major challenge for solar projects. There are 10 manufacturing vendors and 35 empaneled vendors for DRE. Skill development at both GP and state levels is underway, and a mobile app for project management will be launched soon.

Mrs. Abha Mishra

delved into the evolution of solar pump technology since the 1990s and its potential in agriculture. Now that DRE (Distributed Renewable Energy) exists, she emphasized integrating it across the agricultural value chain. She highlighted the need for information on where DRE can be applied and stressed the importance of farm-level storage, not just for seeds but for produce sales. She cited a UNDP project in Rourkela where women farmers use DRE-powered vehicles to transport vegetables. Abha also recommended using small DRE machines for storage and called for training "barefoot solar repairers" to manage maintenance costs. She urged for disaster audits before installing DRE systems and suggested gram panchayats incorporate DRE in their development plans.

Mrs. Biraj laxmi Sarangi

Discussed their initiative Green Shakti, aimed at promoting sustainability and gender equality. Their mission is to empower 1 million women in the green workforce and 5 lakh green women entrepreneurs by 2030. They focus on greening grassroots enterprises, with 95% of these businesses ready to adopt DRE but lacking knowledge on how to proceed due to policy gaps.

People are unaware of the process, costs, and connections needed to transition to DRE. She stressed the importance of market research, demand assessment, and ongoing innovation to bridge these gaps. Collaboration with government programs like Mission Shakti and SRLM is essential, and banks should provide small loans to farmers for DRE adoption.

Mr. Shubhabrata Rath

Called for the integration of integrating Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) into Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. He highlighted the mandatory nature of TCFD and BRSR reporting for listed companies, and the growing focus on ESG reporting, with foreign investments requiring performance disclosures. CSR departments are now familiar with key terms like net zero, GHG emissions, and carbon intensity, and there's a need to link DRE with these initiatives. He also stressed the importance of promoting energy-related skills, particularly through programs like PM Kaushal Yojana, to support DRE development.

Mr. Satyapriya Sahu

Emphasized the need for decentralized solar technology and noted that over 33,000 solar infrastructures in Odisha are non-functional. He highlighted the substantial investment required for transitioning from conventional to renewable energy, stressing the importance of operational maintenance and after-sales services. SELCO is working to develop clean energy entrepreneurs at the grassroots level, having supported over 15 entrepreneurs in remote areas of Odisha. With technology evolving rapidly, SELCO is focusing on capacity-

building for young people to help address these emerging challenges.

Mr. Gunajit Dev Sarma

Flagged the \$18 billion potential for DRE in India in 2023, with only \$1.2 billion allocated from the government. Point of view, marking a 110% investment decline. Despite Odisha's natural resource wealth, land for large solar projects is limited. Efforts are underway to use mining and substation wastelands for DRE projects. He emphasized the low success rate of PM-KUSUM at 27% and called for stronger grassroots involvement, policy support, and collaboration between stakeholders and technology.



Key Takeaways

- There is a significant gap between India's DRE potential and actual investment, with only \$1.2 billion allocated out of the required \$18 billion. Effective policies and stronger grassroots support are critical to bridge this gap.
- DRE is essential to tackle climate change, water scarcity, and income instability, particularly in rural areas. Better execution of programs like PM-KUSUM is crucial.
- Initiatives like *Green Shakti* aim to empower women in DRE through collaboration with programs like Mission Shakti and SRLM, along with targeted financial support.
- DRE requires specialized skills, and programs like PM Kaushal Yojana should focus on training technicians for maintenance and sustainability.
- DRE must be integrated into CSR efforts, with companies aligning with TCFD, BRSR, and ESG standards to attract global investments focused on sustainability.



Roundtable Discussions | Clean Air and Decarbonizing Industries

Session Partner:

Utkal Chamber of Commerce

Chairperson :

Mr. Kalyan Mohanty
ED, IPICOL

Moderator :

Mr. Sanjeev Mahapatra
VP, Utkal Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

Speakers:

Mr. Dillip Kumar Dash
Sr. Environmental Engineer
SPCB, Odisha

Dr. Sandeep Patnaik
Asso. Professor, IIT Bhubaneswar

Dr. Nilotpal Pradhan
Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR, IMMT

Mr. Sanjiv Gopal
Chief of Strategy, ASAR

Mr. Gaurav Yadav
Head, Regional Museum of Natural History

Mr. J.K.Rath
MD, Mechem India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. P C Padhi
Principal, CIPET

Prof. Purna Chandra Mishra
Dean Research, KIIT

Dr. Manas Ranjan Senapati
Dean, BPUT

Mr. Kalyan Mohanty

Highlighted Odisha's development in the metallurgical and power industries, which are key contributors to carbon emissions. He emphasized the need for growth balanced with sustainability practices to achieve the country's net-zero target. Odisha ranks fourth in GHG emissions, with 274.54 metric tons CO2 equivalent, following Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, which have higher populations and industries. While prioritizing high-emission sectors like steel, metal, and cement, Odisha is also focusing on industries with lower emissions, such as food processing, tourism, and petrochemicals. The state's Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) 2022 offers a ₹10 crore one-time incentive to industries adopting green building, STP/ETP, and other environmental measures, along with incentives for zero liquid discharge practices. Odisha has signed an MoU with Nippon Steel Corporation for a green hydrogen steel plant and offers a 30% capital subsidy for the green hydrogen and ammonia sectors.

Several companies have agreed to set up plants in the state, leveraging Odisha's coastal access and abundant water resources, which account for 40% of the country's surface water. In the power sector, Odisha is expanding thermal capacities while introducing renewable energy, aiming for 30-40% green steel production. The government is ensuring that all upcoming projects consider both industrial growth and environmental sustainability, and is working on a Sustainable Development Goal Indicator Framework to meet future commitments also skill and capacity building training are being given by the govt of Odisha.

Mr. Sanjeev Mahapatra

The session's moderator, provided an overview of Odisha's climate vulnerabilities, highlighting air pollution as a significant challenge, particularly in the southern region. He noted that six cities in Odisha fail to meet international ambient air quality standards for PM10 and PM2.5, according to NCAP. Inadequate waste management, rapid urban development, and industrial pollution are key environmental concerns, with the main source of pollution stemming from the state's industrial clusters. Odisha hosts 135 large industries and 4,000-5,000 small and medium-sized enterprises, with power generation, steel production, aluminum manufacturing, and fertilizers contributing heavily to pollution. Of these, 114 industries fall under the red category, signifying high pollution levels. However, 62 industries have joined Odisha's Rising Star Rating Program, which is steadily growing.

Mahapatra emphasized the need for a holistic approach to achieving India's net-zero target by 2070, focusing on corporate sustainability and adopting cutting-edge technology and innovation for carbon reduction. He also commended SwitchOn and KIIT University for organizing the roundtable to share insights and experiences from leaders and educators, aiming toward carbon neutrality.

Mr. Dillip Kumar Dash

Discussed Odisha's inclusion of seven cities in the National Clean Air Program (NCAP), with a goal to reduce PM10 emissions by 40% by 2026. Notably, Odisha is the first state to launch a State Clean Air Program (SCAP). While acknowledging air pollution challenges, Dash disagreed with the view that climate change is solely caused by air pollution, noting that most pollutants meet regulatory standards except for PM2.5 and PM10. He emphasized that decarbonizing industries is not just about reducing fuel use, as industries contribute 60-70% of pollution in cities. Road dust accounts for 40-60% of pollution in Odisha, and the state is focusing on replacing solid fuels with renewable energy to address this. As 80% of energy comes from the energy sector, transitioning to renewable sources will reduce both pollution and climate impact. Dash also referenced Prime Minister Modi's "Mission LiFE" and action points from NITI Aayog, stressing that Odisha has the potential to reduce consumption but needs greater discipline to achieve its goals.

Dr. Sandeep Patnaik

Associate Professor at IIT Bhubaneswar, discussed his work on climate modeling, emphasizing that not all environmental issues can be attributed solely to climate change. His primary focus is India's ambitious target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy, a goal with considerable uncertainty in its projections. Dr. Patnaik's team is evaluating regional climate projections and their impact on renewable energy (RE) potential, particularly in Odisha, with an emphasis on solar, wind, and bioenergy. They utilize AI models to account for these uncertainties and are actively involved in capacity building, preparing the next generation of scientists and entrepreneurs to navigate the challenges ahead. Collaborating with institutions like IIT and NITI Aayog, they are also working on resilient infrastructure and its implications for renewable energy development.

Dr. Nilotpal Pradhan

Emphasized the availability of various government funds aimed at decarbonizing industries, with organizations like CSIR and IMMT leading projects under the "Mission Mode" initiative. These projects focus on carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS), including CO₂ sequestration and the synthesis of chemicals such as methanol and ethanol from CO₂. Despite the availability of technology, a key challenge lies in scaling these solutions to meet the massive emissions generated by industries, particularly steel plants and the transportation sector, which contribute significantly to CO₂ emissions. The disparity between daily CO₂ output and the slower sequestration process

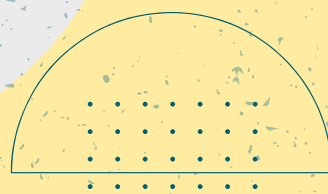
highlights the enormity of the task.

Mr. Sanjiv Gopal

Highlighted that industrial emissions contribute 20-22% of total emissions, with 50% coming from the iron, steel, and cement sectors. Odisha, home to many of these industries, plays a significant role in national growth but also contributes heavily to pollution. The state's manufacturing emissions, including those from the MSME sector, are the third highest in India. As global and national value chains begin to shift, the need to explore decarbonization mechanisms becomes critical. He pointed out challenges such as the lack of standardized taxonomy and language in decarbonization discourse, which complicates efforts. MSMEs, vital to Odisha's economy, must also be integrated into this transition, with blended finance being a potential solution to support the shift towards sustainable industrial practices.

Mr. Gaurav Yadav

who interacts with environmentally conscious individuals, highlighted that many educators and students visiting their museum question the need for an industry-centric model and the impact of a growing population on demand. He emphasized that rather than focusing solely on major issues, there should be multiple solutions for the numerous challenges we face. The museum has successfully avoided using 1,200 kg of plastic over the past four years by repurposing biodegradable and non-biodegradable materials. Gaurav stressed that unless consumer demand is reduced, industries will continue to bear the blame for environmental degradation.



Mr. J.K. Rath

drew attention to key innovations related to clean air and decarbonizing industries, noting the growing adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and plans for building boats powered by diesel engines for waterways, with an eventual shift towards cleaner alternatives. He also discussed the integration of solar systems in houseboats, replacing traditional air conditioning units, to further reduce emissions.

Mr. P.C. Padhi

Principal at CIPET, discussed the institution's long-term programs focused on supporting the polymer-based industries through handholding and generating skilled technical manpower, with CIPET-trained students now working globally. He highlighted the critical role plastics play in key industries such as EV, automotive, and aerospace, where polymers are essential for product development. While recognizing the necessity of plastics, he stressed the importance of responsible and controlled use by citizens. Odisha, in particular, lacks large-scale plastic recycling plants, despite government regulations aimed at managing plastic waste. Compliance remains low, and initiatives on utilizing plastic by-products or waste have yet to gain momentum. However, significant research is underway, and the government is exploring biodegradable plastics and biomass utilization. Mr. Padhi emphasized that while recycled plastics present significant economic opportunities, bioplastics may not be feasible in India due to cost and practicality, and large industries should focus on earning carbon credits as part of their sustainability efforts.

Dr. Manas Ranjan Senapati

underscored the presence of various harmful pollutants, with microplastics being a growing concern. He highlighted CO₂ as a key contributor to global warming and stressed the importance of addressing Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions. Additionally, CO₂ emissions from diesel generator (DG) sets are a significant concern that needs to be addressed in efforts to reduce overall emissions.



Key Takeaways

- The steel, iron, and cement industries contribute significantly to global CO₂ emissions, particularly in Odisha, which is a major industrial hub. Scaling decarbonization solutions in these sectors is critical for both national and international environmental targets.
- In sectors like water management and air pollution, adaptation strategies are currently the most viable solutions.
- India's ambitious target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy by 2030 comes with uncertainty, especially in regional projections. Odisha should evaluate its renewable energy potential (solar, wind, bioenergy) and explore the use of green hydrogen to support industries like steel in reducing emissions.
- MSMEs play a crucial role in Odisha's industrial emissions, being the third-largest contributor in India. Addressing the emissions from these sectors requires better understanding, blended finance models, and clear decarbonization frameworks to align with national sustainability goals.
- Large industries in Odisha are increasingly adopting sustainability measures, such as green building incentives and renewable energy integration. Programs like the Rising Star Rating and partnerships with institutions underscore the need for corporate responsibility and innovation in achieving long-term climate goals.

A photograph of a workshop session. Two people, a woman and a man, are seated at a long table with microphones. The woman is on the left, wearing a pink and white patterned top. The man is on the right, wearing a white shirt and glasses. A third person is standing in the background. The room has a white wall with some framed pictures and a clock on the wall.

Experts

Mr. Sushant Sekhar Choudhary
Senior Scientist, SEED, SAA

Ms. Soumyashree Tripathi
Senior Programme Officer-Gender
WASSAN

Workshops for farmers | Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Farming

The workshop on Climate Resilient Agriculture and Sustainable Farming, aimed to provide a platform for discussions on the importance of adopting climate-resilient agricultural practices, the role of gender in sustainable farming, and the sharing of success stories from farmers who have embraced organic methods. The overarching theme was to enhance the resilience of farming systems in Odisha in response to climate challenges.

Key areas for improving productivity with Millets as a Climate-Smart Crop

- **Climate Adaptability:** Millets, being hardy and drought-resistant, have a natural ability to withstand erratic rainfall and other climate-related stressors. Mr. Choudhary highlighted their importance in improving food security and enhancing the resilience of farming systems in Odisha and across India.
- **Nutritional Benefits:** Millets are not only climate-resilient but also nutrient-rich, offering a valuable solution to malnutrition in rural communities. The inclusion of millets in the farming cycle can significantly contribute to both economic and nutritional security.
- **Policy Support and Promotion:** He stressed the need for strong policy support to promote millet cultivation, urging stakeholders to work together to create awareness, provide access to seeds, and offer incentives to farmers.

Role of Gender in Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Sustainable Farming

- **Women as Key Drivers of Change:** Women, especially in rural communities, are often at the forefront of managing agricultural activities. She highlighted how empowering women through training and resources can lead to the adoption of more sustainable and climate-friendly farming practices.
- **Gender-Specific Challenges:** Soumyashree pointed out the specific challenges faced by women in agriculture, including limited access to land, finance, and decision-making power. Addressing these issues, she said, was critical to building resilient agricultural systems.

Women-Led Farming Models: Examples of successful women-led farming models were shared, showcasing how gender-inclusive approaches could enhance the sustainability and productivity of farming communities. She emphasized that gender equality must be central to any agricultural reform aimed at promoting climate resilience.

Experience Sharing on Organic Cultivation

- **Minati Sabat**, a member of the Swayam Shraddha Mahila Mahasangh SHG, spoke about her journey as an SHG member, **Minati Sabat** from Ward No. 37, Bhubaneswar, formed the Om Sai Ram SHG in 2019 under Mission Shakti to become financially independent. Initially starting with tailoring, her group soon joined the Swayam Sradha Mahila Mahasangha federation. In January 2023, 16 members began managing a Millet Shakti outlet at Kalinga Stadium, offering 32 millet-based products. The outlet earns a monthly turnover of ₹5-6 lakh, with profits shared among members. Training from IHM Bhubaneswar and WASSAN helped boost their skills. Minati proudly supports her family and contributed to her son's education through the SHG's success.
- **Alok Pujari**, CEO of Baliharichandi Farmer Producer Organization, echoed these sentiments highlighting the value-added products developed by his Farmer Producer Organization (FPO). He shared insights into how his organization had tapped into local and regional markets with organic produce, thus ensuring better returns for farmers. Alok also discussed the challenges faced, such as market linkages and certification, but noted that the benefits far outweighed the hurdles.

Key Learnings

- **Millet as a Climate-Smart Crop:** The workshop highlighted the importance of promoting millet cultivation as a sustainable and resilient crop. There is a need for policy advocacy to ensure better market linkages and pricing support for millet farmers.
- **Gender and Agriculture:** Women's role in agriculture needs to be recognized and strengthened through gender-sensitive policies and capacity-building programs.
- **Organic Farming and Value Addition:** Farmers should be encouraged to adopt organic farming practices and explore value-added products as a means to increase income and sustainability.
- **Collaboration and Networking:** Tangible results can be brought with continued collaboration between farmers, government agencies, NGOs.





Experts

Mr. Goutam Kumar Pradhan
Sr. Advisor, Selco Foundation



Workshops for farmers

Distributed Renewable Energy

The workshop on Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) aimed to provide a platform for discussions on the role of renewable energy, particularly solar energy, in promoting sustainability and building climate resilience. The session focused on practical applications in agriculture and rural development.

Key Highlights on Solar Energy for Sustainable Development

Reliability and Abundance: Solar energy is a reliable and inexhaustible resource, offering sustainable energy solutions essential for development and combating climate change.

Reducing Dependence on Conventional Energy: Solar power helps reduce reliance on finite resources like fossil fuels and hydroelectric power, contributing to long-term environmental sustainability.

Empowering Farmers through Solar Energy: Solar-powered irrigation, machinery, and post-harvest processing can enhance productivity in rural agriculture, especially in areas with unreliable grid electricity.

Challenges and Financial Pathways

High Initial Costs: Despite the long-term benefits, the high upfront investment in solar equipment remains a barrier, especially for small-scale farmers.

Maintenance and Technical Support: Ensuring access to trained technicians for the operation and maintenance of solar systems is crucial to sustaining the benefits of renewable energy.

Government Support and Role of the Private Sector

Subsidies and Financial Mechanisms: Government programs and subsidies for solar energy, such as solar irrigation systems, are vital for increasing adoption, while private organizations like SELCO Foundation demonstrate the effectiveness of these systems.

Community Awareness and Collaboration: Educating communities on the benefits of solar energy and creating partnerships between government, NGOs, and local entrepreneurs is essential for the sustainable scaling of renewable energy solutions.

Key Learnings

- **Practical Applications:** Understanding how solar energy can be utilized at various agricultural stages to improve productivity.
- **Financial Barriers:** Identifying the high initial investment as a significant challenge for farmers and the importance of government subsidies.
- **Strengthen Maintenance Networks:** Develop partnerships with local technicians to create a robust maintenance and service network for solar equipment.
- **Collaboration Necessity:** Emphasizing the importance of collaboration between government, NGOs, and communities for successful solar energy projects.



Facilitator

Jay Prakash Nayak
Program Analyst
Socratus Foundation

Guest

Mrs. Ekta Jaju
Executive Director, SwitchON Foundation
Mr. K Chandrasekhar
Associate Professor and Program Officer
NSS at BIITM
Dr. Shyam Sundar Behura
Dy. Director, KSAC

Workshops for Children and Youth | Climate Panchayat

The Climate Panchayat was convened with the aim of addressing key environmental challenges, engaging a diverse group of local participants, including students from various colleges and schools across Odisha. The discussions covered a broad spectrum of issues, highlighting the immediate concerns of climate change and what steps can be taken at an institutional level.

1. Air Pollution Due to Vehicular Emissions:

- The rapid increase in vehicles has led to rising levels of air pollution, significantly degrading air quality, particularly in urban areas.

2. Plastic Pollution:

- Plastic waste was identified as a major environmental hazard. Participants highlighted how plastic bags, often ingested by animals like cows, lead to fatal consequences. Additionally, plastic waste contributes to both water and air pollution.
- There was a strong call for banning single-use plastics and finding alternatives, such as cloth bags and biodegradable materials.

3. Deforestation and Its Consequences:

- Participants discussed the loss of green cover, particularly in urbanizing areas like Patia, which was a forest 20 years ago but is now covered in concrete structures. This deforestation has led to increased temperatures and unpredictable rainfall patterns.

4. Soil Degradation Due to Fertilizer Use:

- The overuse of chemical fertilizers in agriculture has caused significant soil degradation, reducing the fertility and sustainability of farmlands.

5. Urban Heat Island Effect:

- The rise of high-rise buildings and excessive use of glass in construction has created what is referred to as a "second sun effect," intensifying the heat island phenomenon in urban areas.
- The lack of trees and increasing vehicular emissions were also cited as contributors to worsening air quality and rising dust levels.

In conclusion, the Climate Panchayat provided a platform for participants to voice their concerns about the environmental challenges they face and to propose tangible solutions. The event underscored the urgent need for collective action, sustainable practices, and increased awareness to combat the growing climate crisis in Odisha.





Expert

Ms. Sabita Patnaik

Chief Advisor

Bugin Ha Tribal School

Workshops for Children and Youth | Sustainable Storytelling

The storytelling session, led by Sabita Patnaik, focused on raising environmental awareness among children and youth through creative expression. The session highlighted critical issues like waste management, pollution control, and the role of storytelling in fostering environmental responsibility.

Key Highlights on Environmental Awareness

Waste Management and Pollution Control

Engaging storytelling methods were used including interactive presentations and musical instruments, to emphasize the importance of managing waste and reducing pollution, urging the audience to take collective responsibility for environmental sustainability.

Interactive Learning

Participants were involved in role-playing and group activities to foster a deeper understanding of pollution's impact on air, water, and ecosystems. This hands-on approach reinforced the session's message, making the learning process dynamic and engaging.

Group Activity and Creative Expression

The participants were divided into groups, where they collaboratively created stories and drew illustrations based on the themes discussed during the session. This activity promoted teamwork and allowed participants to express their understanding of environmental issues creatively. Each group presented their stories to the audience, providing an opportunity to develop public speaking skills and share their ideas on environmental conservation.

Key Learnings

- The importance of managing waste and controlling pollution for environmental sustainability.
- Creative expression, such as storytelling and drawing, can be effective tools for raising awareness.
- Teamwork and collaboration are vital in addressing environmental issues.
- Public speaking and confidence-building through group presentations.



A photograph of a workshop session. A man in a yellow shirt is standing and speaking to a group of people seated at long tables. A large screen in the background displays a presentation. The room has a wooden panelled wall and a framed picture. The text 'KIIT' is visible on a podium.

Expert Speaker

Mr. S.P. Rollsan Rout
CTTC BBSR

Learning Labs | Workshop on Solar Energy Solutions

The workshop focused on promoting sustainable energy solutions through practical training on solar energy applications. The session highlighted the importance of transitioning to renewable energy and provided hands-on experience to participants from leading institutions, including KIIT, World Skill Centre, CIPET BBSR, and GIFT BBSR, in utilizing solar technologies for a sustainable future.

Key Insights on Solar Energy Transition to Solar Energy

Mr. Rout provided an in-depth introduction to the significance of solar energy in achieving sustainability. He highlighted solar energy's role in reducing carbon footprints and its potential to transform energy consumption across sectors.

Technological Understanding

Participants were introduced to various solar energy technologies, learning about their functioning and real-world applications. Mr. Rout emphasized how these technologies could be applied effectively to promote energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

Practical Hands-on Sessions

The workshop included hands-on sessions where participants engaged in the installation and operation of small-scale solar systems. These practical exercises offered participants the opportunity to experience the technical aspects of solar energy firsthand, deepening their understanding of its application and challenges.

Interactive Discussions and Viability

The interactive nature of the workshop allowed participants to discuss the viability and scalability of solar technologies in their respective fields. These discussions encouraged participants to explore the adoption of sustainable energy solutions tailored to their industries.

Challenges and Future Directions

During the concluding Q&A session, Mr. Rout addressed questions on optimizing solar systems for different environments, ensuring that participants left with a clear understanding of how to tackle the technical challenges involved in solar energy implementation.

Key Learnings

- The critical role of solar energy in promoting sustainability and reducing carbon footprints.
- Hands-on experience in solar system installation and operation.
- Understanding the potential of solar technologies for various sectors.
- The importance of scaling solar solutions and adapting them to different industries.
- Encouraging a shift towards renewable energy practices through practical knowledge and interactive discussions.





Expert Speaker

Dr. Subra Debdas

Associate Professor

School of Electrical Engineering

Learning Labs

Workshop Eco Grow: IoT-Enabled Sustainable Farming Solutions

The workshop focused on exploring IoT-enabled solutions for sustainable agriculture. The session highlighted the role of technology in advancing farming practices and optimizing resource use. Attended by participants from KIIT, World Skill Centre, CIPET BBSR, and GIFT BBSR, the workshop offered insights into how IoT can revolutionize traditional agriculture for a more sustainable future.

Key Highlights on IoT in Agriculture

Revolutionizing Traditional Farming:

The participants were introduced to the transformative potential of IoT (Internet of Things) in agriculture, focusing on how smart, data-driven solutions can optimize resource usage, increase efficiency, and support sustainable farming practices.

Technological Integration:

The session covered the integration of IoT technologies into farming, showcasing how sensors and automated systems monitor critical parameters like soil moisture, temperature, and humidity to enhance crop productivity while minimizing waste.

Hands-on Applications and Practical Learning

IoT Sensor Experimentation:

Participants engaged in practical exercises where they experimented with IoT sensors and systems designed for real-time monitoring of agricultural environments. These hands-on activities allowed participants to experience the impact of IoT in improving farm management through data analytics.

Case Studies and Success Stories:

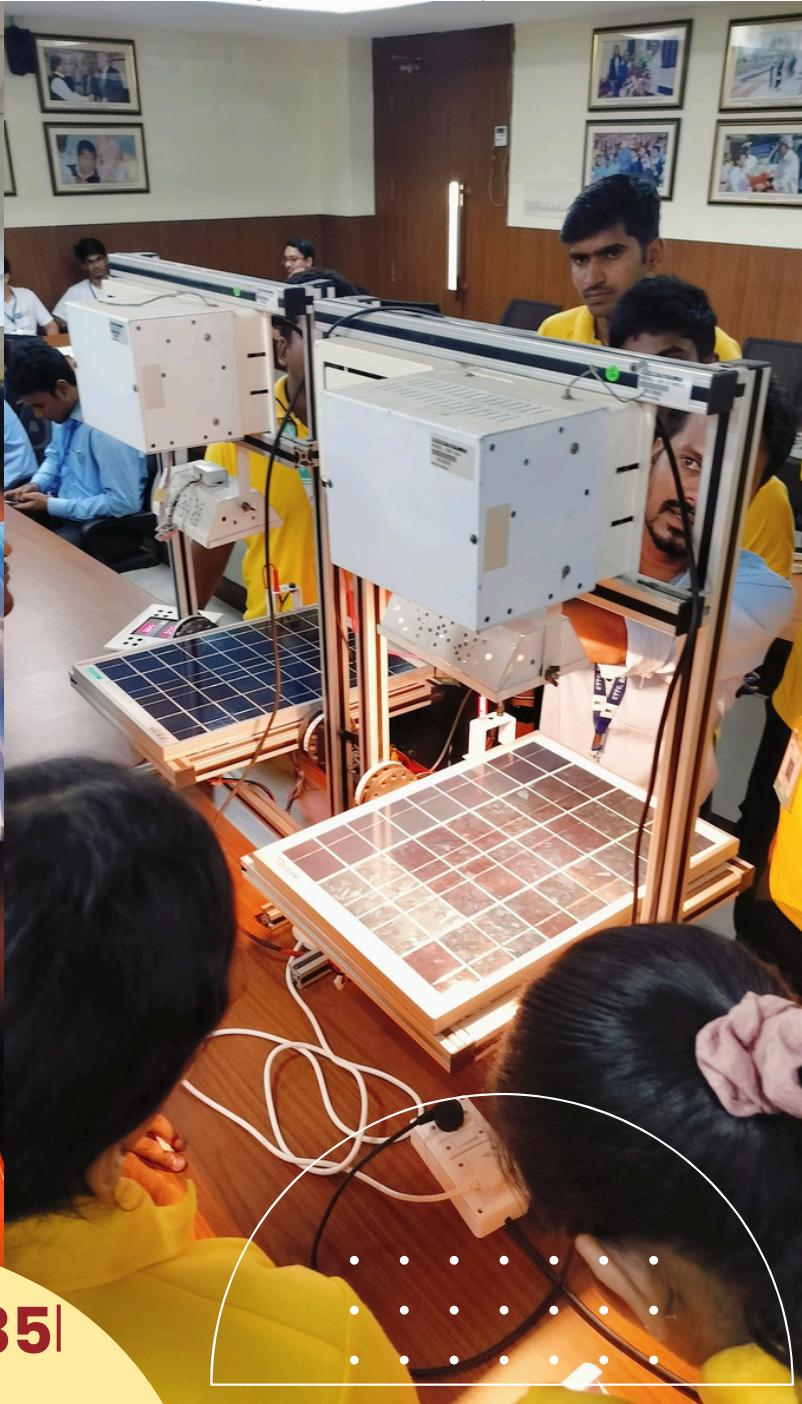
Successful case studies were shared of IoT-enabled agricultural projects, illustrating how these technologies have been applied in diverse agricultural settings to boost efficiency and promote sustainable practices.

Interactive Discussion and Q&A

The interactive session allowed participants to raise questions about the challenges and feasibility of adopting IoT technologies in different agricultural environments. Dr. Debdas addressed concerns and provided practical advice on overcoming barriers to IoT implementation.

Key Learnings

- Real-time monitoring through IoT sensors for efficient resource management.
- The potential of IoT in enhancing productivity while reducing environmental impact.
- Practical advice on adopting IoT solutions tailored to various agricultural settings.
- Importance of integrating technology into farming for long-term sustainability.



Odisha Greenovation Hackathon

A vibrant forum for early-stage startups and youth to showcase green business ideas on sustainable themes. 10 college youth and startups participated in the Pitch session, presenting ideas on renewable energy, sustainable lifestyle, just transition, pollution control, efficient tech lifestyle initiatives. The Pitch sessions were judged by **Ajay Mittal, SwitchON Foundation, Dr. Jyoti Agarwal, Manager of Technology Development, KIIT TBI, Mr. B.P. Pattnaik, Project Lead, KIIT Technology Enabling Centre, Mr. Soumya Prakash Dalua, Consultant, CSTEP, Mr. Amit Barman , Programme Head , IFPRI**



Sustainable Exhibitions

The sustainable exhibition featured model presentations, eco-friendly products, millet food items, and live cooking demonstrations. Organizations showcased local products including electronic waste recycling, bamboo products, Organic food products, millet snacks, sustainable decorative products featuring a diverse array of organizations, like Smart Solar, ShaktiMayee Mahasangh, PIUS, RadhaKrishna SHG, Intergram, Recycle pay, Beyond Waste, Asahayen, Adruta, Millet House, Bamboo Articionian_Mahasangha Foundation Trust, Room On Wheel, Regional Science Centre, each making significant contributions to environmental sustainability.



CLOSING KEYNOTE

Jagadananda

Co- Founder , CYSD

Future in Focus: Addressing Climate Change

Recognizing the Demographic Shift in a Changing Climate

As we confront the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change, it is imperative to recognize the demographic trends shaping our future. Countries like Korea, France, and Italy are experiencing

population recession, and India, with a current fertility rate of 2, is not far behind. In Odisha, where the fertility rate has declined to 1.8%, projections indicate it may fall to approximately 1.4% by 2036, coinciding with the state's centenary. This decline in birth rates signals a looming demographic shift, characterized by an aging population and a reduction in the youth demographic, which could have significant implications for our economy and environment.

The Impact of Declining Youth Populations on Education and Economy

The closure of around 7,000 schools in Odisha over the past four years due to a lack of children underscores the urgency of this situation. A declining youth population threatens not only educational institutions but also the vitality of our workforce and the overall health of our economy. Furthermore, if we fail to address the nutritional needs of our children—particularly within their crucial first thousand days—we risk creating a generation that is malnourished and unable to contribute effectively to society.



Protecting Agricultural Land and Ecosystems

In a disaster-prone region like Odisha, where cyclones, floods, and droughts are prevalent, the preservation of our agricultural land and ecosystems is paramount. We must prioritize sustainable practices by minimizing the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to protect our soil and ensure food security for future generations. Every child is a valuable asset to our society, and their well-being must be at the forefront of our efforts.

Taking Collective Action for a Sustainable Future

It is clear that we are at a critical juncture. We must each become change-makers in our own right, taking proactive steps to foster a sustainable future. How do we ensure the survival of our children and the integrity of our environment? This question requires urgent answers, collective action, and a commitment to nurturing our resources—every drop of water and every inch of soil. Together, we can work towards solutions that will not only mitigate the impacts of climate change but also secure a thriving future for our communities.

Awards and Recognitions



CLIMATE CHAMPION FARMER AWARD

- Mr. Duryodhan Sahu
- Ms. Sanjukata Pradhan
- Mr. Jitendra Pradhan
- Mr. Manash Ranjan Pradhan
- Mr. Biranchi Behera
- Mr. Manash Kumar Samal
- Mr. Dilip Muduli
- Swayam Shradha Mahila Mahasangh
- WASSAN



CLEAN AIR CHAMPION SCHOOL

- Saraswati Shishu Vidyamandir
- St. Xavier High School
- Govt. High School, Chandrasekharpur, Phase-2



CLEAN AIR CHAMPION COLLEGE

- NIIS
- BIITM
- Debray College, Nayapalli



GREEN PIONEER AWARD

- KIIT
- Centurian University
- Gandhi Institute for Technology
- World Skill Centre, Bhubaneswar

Participant Testimonials

Payal Nayak

"The launch of the India Clean Air Network at the Move for Earth Symposium was a game-changer in addressing climate change. This initiative fosters collaboration and networking, which are crucial to mitigating the effects of air pollution. What stood out to me was the collective will to create a cleaner future through partnerships. By bringing together leaders, experts, and communities, we can drive meaningful progress toward better air quality and climate resilience across the country."



K Chandrashekhar

"I was deeply moved by the level of youth engagement at the Move for Earth Symposium, especially during the Climate Panchayat session. Young leaders from across the country shared their ideas and passion for addressing climate change, proving that the future of climate action is in capable hands. The symposium provided a platform for these voices to be heard, empowering youth to take an active role in shaping the sustainable future we all want to achieve."



Kapil

"The strength of the Move for Earth Symposium lies in its ability to bring together diverse stakeholders to build meaningful partnerships. This event created an ecosystem where academia, NGOs, government officials, and industry experts worked side by side, discussing how to drive real, sustainable change. I left the symposium with new insights and strategic collaborations that will help us move closer to our climate action goals."





www.SwitchON.org.in       @SwitchONIndia

SwitchON Foundation, established in 2008, is a leading non-profit organisation focusing on Environment Sustainability and Equal Opportunities. Operating in 10 Indian states. It leads initiatives in Clean Energy Access, Sustainable Agriculture, Skilling, Clean Air and Sustainable Cities. Key strengths encompass innovative project implementation, capacity building, field support, awareness and advocacy.

