



Title: FPOs and Biofuels: Empowering Agriculture, Energizing Tomorrow

Date: 8th February 2024

Time: 04:00 PM

Venue: Jacaranda Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India

Background

The integration of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Biofuels signifies a transformative alliance for sustainable agriculture. FPOs, empowering farmers at their core, emerge as catalysts for a greener and resilient agricultural landscape. This synergy unlocks the potential to revolutionize farming, contributing to eco-friendly energy solutions. The government's centre sector scheme to form 10,000 FPOs aligns with the central role of FPOs in alleviating challenges faced by small farmers. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) actively contributes to this initiative as a Cluster-Based Business Organization (CBBO). Biofuels, an integral component of the renewable energy paradigm. Biofuels, derived from agricultural waste and other biomass, offer a distinct advantage over non-renewable fossil fuels, presenting a cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternative. However, discussions must scrutinize the economic and environmental costs associated with biofuel refining. This intricate relationship underscores biofuel's dual impact, addressing energy security while promoting agricultural diversity. The upcoming panel discussion aims to unravel synergies, showcase successful models, and chart a sustainable course for an agro-revolution that harmonizes environmental stewardship and agricultural prosperity. Under the theme "FPOs and Biofuels: Empowering Agriculture, Energizing Tomorrow," this dialogue envisions a future where collective action and eco-friendly energy solutions pave the way for a thriving agricultural sector.

Objectives:

- Foster an understanding of the potential synergy between FPOs and biofuel production.
- Examine challenges related to the food vs fuel debate.
- To address concerns related to sustainable biofuel production.
- Discuss the role of investors and financial institutions in supporting biofuel projects.
- Present strategies for engaging local communities in biofuel projects.
- Emphasize the importance of creating awareness about the benefits of biofuel projects among farmers.

Guiding Questions:

- What specific roles can FPOs play in empowering farmers?
- In what ways do FPOs contribute to sustainable agricultural practices, and can you provide examples of successful implementations?
- How can FPOs strategically intersect with biofuels, and what potential synergies do you envision for sustainable development?

- Are there notable case studies or examples showcasing successful collaborations between FPOs and biofuel initiatives? What made these collaborations successful?
- What challenges do FPOs face when engaging with biofuel projects, and what opportunities exist for mutual growth and development?
- How effective are current government initiatives and policies in supporting FPOs and biofuel projects, and what improvements can be suggested?
- Can you highlight specific technological advancements beneficial for FPOs in biofuel production, and how can training programs enhance technological literacy among farmers?
- What are the key concerns related to sustainable biofuel production, and how can we actively promote eco-friendly practices in this context?
- In exploring financing options for FPO-led biofuel ventures, what role do investors and financial institutions play, and what strategies can ensure sustainable funding?
- What strategies have proven effective in engaging local communities in biofuel projects, and how can awareness about biofuels' benefits and challenges be effectively communicated to farmers?

About the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal. The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world's most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The 23rd edition of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)—the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)—will be held from 7-9 February 2024 in New Delhi. The Summit deliberations will focus on the umbrella theme: Leadership for Sustainable Development and Climate Justice.