



International Solar Alliance

Solar for Women: Changing Lives and Igniting Possibilities

March 08, 2021 | 15:00 – 18:00 HRS IST

Contextual Background

Women constitute around half of the total world population. Not all live a healthy and comfortable life of equal opportunities.

In many remote areas across the globe, women have to face unprecedented hardships and are exposed to grave health hazards due to limited or no access to clean energy. Dependence on conventional fuels for cooking and other daily routine work puts them at constant health, security and growth risk. Not only this, sustained health issues diminish women's ability to engage in economically productive activities thus impacting the overall socio-economic condition of communities. The lack of clean energy technologies not only has an adverse impact on health and socio economic scenario, it also contributes significantly to climate change.

In this context, adoption of renewable energy as a primary source of energy can prove to be a game changer. Solar energy comes as a clear champion amongst all renewable energy sources due to its decentralised nature and affordability. It is an established fact that solar energy solutions can bring lasting economic, social and environmental change and can favourably impact communities favourably, especially women. Solar applications like solar cookers, solar run induction cookstoves, solar water pumps for drinking water, solar reverse osmosis solutions for water purification, solar driers, solar chillers and solar home systems, can help fulfil household energy needs and also generate economic opportunities. Modern cookstoves, public lighting during night time and electrified public health centres can substantially improve the quality of life for women in energy challenged areas.

Continued focus on gender-responsive implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7 and 13 is to be encouraged and applauded. Governments, international organisations, MDBs, actors and NGOs all across the world are working in their unique ways to make an impact in this area. Integrating gender perspective into bilateral ODAs to climate change, and making recommendations to improve the gender-responsiveness of climate action has been a high priority goal of developed states. In coming times, donors are expected to improve their support to locally-led action on gender and climate change.

More needs to be done to improve the present scenario. ISA provides a strong platform for diverse stakeholders to discuss various facets related to solar. With the support of 76 member countries and over 50 partner organisations, ISA has been working relentlessly to enable energy access, energy security and energy transition. Through this webinar, ISA aims to highlight the role solar energy can play in bringing positive change in the lives of women, inspiring change and encouraging investment in gender-responsive projects across the globe.



Tentative Agenda (Time in Indian Standard Time)

Webinar on Solar for Women: Changing Lives and Igniting Possibilities

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| 15:00- 15:10 Hrs. | Welcome and Opening Remarks H.E. Mr. Upendra Tripathy, Director General, ISA |
| 15:10 – 15:20 Hrs. | Special Address H.E. Mr. Ajay Mathur, DG- Designate (ISA) |
| 15:20 - 15:30 Hrs. | Key Note Address Ms. Susan Ferguson, Representative, UN Women India |
| 15:30 - 15: 40 Hrs. | Context Setting Mr. P.K. Mahapatra, Chair, ISA Project Committee and Regional Coordinator (LAC Region), ISA |
| Session 1: Role of Solar Energy in holistic community development and How Can women be empowered to lead the change | |
| 15:40- 15:50 Hrs. | Speaker 1: Ms Meagan Fallone; CEO Barefoot College, Solar Mamas programme for the Pacific |
| 15:50 – 16:00 Hrs. | Speaker 2: Ms. Reema Nanavaty; Secretary General, Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) |
| Session 2: Developing Financial Models to Improve Gender Neutral Energy Access | |
| 16:00- 16:10 Hrs. | Speaker 1: Dr. Merce Labordena, Senior Policy Advisor, Solar Power Europe |
| 16:10- 16:20 Hrs. | Speaker 2: Ms. Valerie Furio, Climate Finance Analyst, Climate Policy Initiative, UK |
| 16:20 – 16:30 Hrs. | Speaker 3: Ms. Mahua Acharya; MD, and CEO, Convergence Energy Services Limited |
| Session 3: Women In Solar Technologies and Entrepreneurship | |
| 16:30-16:40 Hrs. | Speaker 1: Ms. Aasha Abdulla Alnuaimi ; Director- Solar Innovation Centre, UAE (ISA- Kalpana Chawla Haryana Solar Awardee) |
| 16:40- 16:50 Hrs. | Speaker 2: Ms. Ajaita Shah; CEO Frontier Markets |
| 16:50-17: 00 Hrs. | Speaker 3: Ms. Olasimbo Sojinrin, Country Director, Solar Sister Nigeria |
| Session 4: Challenges and Opportunities: The Way Forward | |
| 17:00-17:10 Hrs. | Ms. Asma Huque, Founder, UBOMUS; Bangladesh Case Study |
| 17:10 - 17:15 Hrs | Launch of Report on ‘Gender & Social Inclusion (GSI) - Framework for Energy Programme and Project’ By Foreign Commonwealth Development Office, UK/KPMG* |



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| 17:15 - 17:20 Hrs | ISA Resolution By Ms. Fiona Bourne, Director (Resources, Governance & Innovation), ISA |
| 17:20 - 17:50 Hrs. | Country Interventions – Moderated by Ms. Zerín Osho |
| 17:50 -17:55 Hrs. | Concluding Remarks Mr. Arun Mishra, Senior Advisor, ISA |
| 17: 55-18: 00 Hrs. | Vote of Thanks Mrs. Archana Bhardwaj, Project Officer, ISA |

* To be confirmed