



# Summary of multistakeholder roundtable on Greening Rural Value Chains in Madhya Pradesh

LRC Conference Room, IIT Indore  
25th November, 2022

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## Background

India is one of the top horticulture producers in the world. Yet, India processes less than 10% of fresh produce and over 30% of fresh produce wastage is reported as well. Process of the fresh produce vary substantially based on season of growth/harvesting and demand putting undue pressure on the growers related to price realization. On the contrary, there are several examples from states such as Maharashtra and Gujarat where the farmers' cooperatives facilitated value-addition to the fresh produce that resulted in extended shelf life and higher revenue realization. All such value-additions help reduce challenges related to low productivity, high post-harvest losses, inadequate storage, and logistics infrastructure. Higher farm-income also results in creating alternative livelihoods, climate resilience and sustainability in the rural economy. Past activities carried out by MP Ensystems Advisory Pvt. Limited and the core research carried out at the Centre for Rural Development and Technology at IIT Indore suggests opportunities to deepen the decarbonization efforts as well to transform rural sector industrialization.

Aligned with several sustainable development goals and stewardship in certain states such as Madhya Pradesh, the team at MP Ensystems and IIT Indore joined hands to improve scale and scope of creating partnerships. Multi-stakeholder platforms have been used by public, private, civil-society and academia in different sectors to create collective wisdom and targeted interventions. IIT Indore and MP Ensystems Advisory Pvt. Ltd. co-convened a multistakeholder roundtable on 25 November 2022. The roundtable aimed to present, identify and explore the challenges and opportunities in greening rural value chains and boosting the rural economy through technological and policy interventions in Madhya Pradesh, leading to deeper decarbonization.

The list of participants at the roundtable is attached at Annexure 1 and the agenda is presented as Annexure II.

The roundtable had participation from the state government of Madhya Pradesh, specifically from Agriculture and Horticulture departments, and Electricity Utility (Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Co. Ltd.); civil society organizations, Clean Energy Access Network (CLEAN), The Climate Group (TCG), Palle Srujana and private sector developers including Raheja Solar Food Processing Pvt. Ltd. to name a few.

The initial welcoming remarks from Prof. Suhas Joshi and Prof. Pritee Sharma, presented the activities under Centre for Rural Development and Technology (CRDT) and emphasized the need of such discussion platforms to strengthen efforts in the rural sector.

Dr. Mahesh Patankar, from MP Ensystems, discussed examples of the greening of rural value chains from a few districts in Madhya Pradesh, including Chhindwara and Shahdol. He also



presented the work carried out in farm to fork assessments for produce such as potato, turmeric and medicinal plants with an emphasis on decarbonizing the value chain that includes solarised post-harvest processing, electrified transportation for first-mile and last-mile delivery services and improved scope of operations creating minimal wastage.

The panel discussions pointed out the need of solarization in agriculture sector with additional provision of cluster-based solar-powered cold storages to support onion, garlic and potato farming, eventually boosting the rural economy while establishing market linkages. The need for fleet electrification in the rural sector for last mile connectivity was highlighted too. The panel shared their views on training and capacity building requirements towards natural farming techniques which will help farmers avail good rates in the markets. The gathering benefited from a presentation made on behalf of Mr. Manu Srivastava, Principal Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh that highlighted benefits of aggregated solarisation of built environment in the government buildings; specifically focusing on healthcare facilities and educational campuses. The innovative combination of capital expenditure and operational services model was identified as a key game-changer to rapid solarisation on the end-use consumption side. Mr. S. L. Karwadiya representing the Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Limited highlighted the need for solarisation in the agriculture sector focused on cold-chain infrastructure development. The deliberations also benefited from a presentation by Brigadier P. Ganesham representing Palle Srujana that emphasizes grassroot innovations leading to higher value-addition and localisation of technology implementations.

The call to act from the roundtable included continuing multistakeholder dialogue convened at and through the thought leadership of IIT Indore; partnering with MP Ensystems Advisory Pvt. Ltd.; also inviting key Madhya Pradesh government institutions, departments and think-tanks.

For further details on this intervention, please contact:

1. Ms. Prajkta Adhikari (8600033289)  
[prajkta@mpensystems.com](mailto:prajkta@mpensystems.com)  
MP Ensystems Advisory Pvt. Ltd.
2. Dr. Harsha Upadhyay (7000106823)  
[crdt-office@iiti.ac.in](mailto:crdt-office@iiti.ac.in)  
Centre for Rural Development and Technology – IIT Indore

## Glimpses of the event



Group photo of participants



Prof. Suhas Joshi addressing the roundtable



Dr. Mahesh Patankar presenting value chain analysis



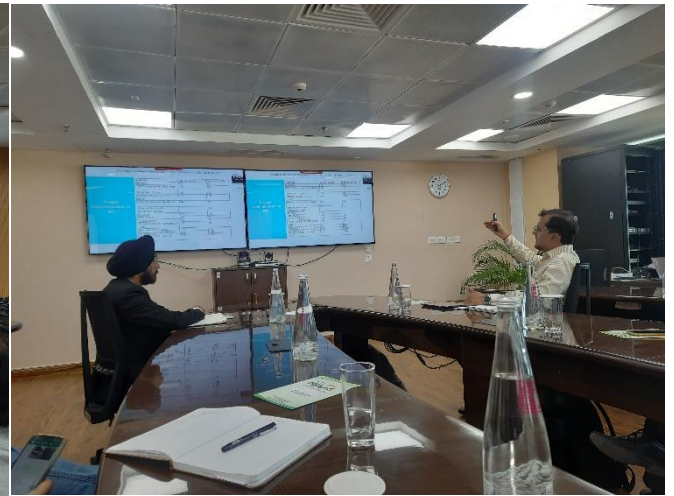
Glimpse of the roundtable discussion



Prof. Suhas Joshi felicitating Mr. Karwadiya from MPPKVCL



Prof. Pritee Sharma presenting the work done by CRDT



Mr. Anurag Gupta presenting the RESCO model



Brig. P Ganesham presenting Palle Srujan objectives



Mr. Parmeet Singh discussing the benefits of solar dryers



## Annexure I: Participants

The list of roundtable participants is in the table below:

Sr. no.	Name	Designation	Organization	Type
<b>In-person</b>				
1	Mr. Parmeet Singh	Partner	Raheja Solar Food Processing Pvt. Ltd.	Private organization
2	Mr. Prasenjeet Deb	Head - Programme Management	Clean Energy Access Network	Private organization
3	Mr. S L Karwadiya	Director (Projects)	MP Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Co. Ltd.	Government
4	Mr. Anurag Gupta	State Climate Fellow	The Climate Group	Private organization
5	Dr. Radheshyam Tailor	Head of the Department	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Indore	Government
6	Mr. Kartar Singh Gurjar	Joint Director	Horticulture Dept.	Government
7	Brigadier Ganesham Pogula	Founder President	Palle Srujana	NGO
<b>Virtual</b>				
1	Mr. Sourav Chowdhury	Senior Project Officer	The Climate Group	Private organization
2	Prof. Manmohan Yadav	Dean	Indian Institute of Forest Management	Private organization



## Annexure II: Agenda

Time slot	Topic of discussion	Lead discussant	Minutes
11:00 – 11:10	Welcome and Inaugural speech	Prof. Suhas Joshi, Director, IIT Indore	10 minutes
11:10 – 11:20	Introductions	All participants	10 minutes
11:20 – 11:30	Presentation on CRDT activities and research proposals	IIT Indore	10 minutes
11:30 – 11:40	Presentation on the communities to markets efficient corridors concepts in the rural economy and examples of projects that target net zero carbon post-harvest opportunities as well as deepening of value-additions towards greening the value chain	MP Ensystems	10 minutes
11:40 – 12:20	Panel discussion on ways of collaboration	Government organizations	40 minutes
12:20 – 13:00	Panel discussion on role of public-private and philanthropic funding in agricultural value chains, livelihood and sustainability	Funding agencies and Private organizations	40 minutes
13:00 – 13:10	Summary of panel discussions	IIT Indore and MP Ensystems	10 minutes
13:10 – 13:45	<b>Lunch</b>		
13:45 – 14:15	Moderated discussion sessions on <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Skill gaps and opportunities for training in entrepreneurship, clean energy, food processing, transport electrification</li> <li>2. Aligning green rural value chain implementation with AtmaNirbhar Madhya Pradesh roadmap 2023 or other state government programs</li> <li>3. Financing options for EE, RE and other interventions including bank loans, Govt programs, supply chain financing, alternative financing instruments</li> </ol>	IIT Indore and MP Ensystems	30 minutes
14:15 – 14:50	Open discussion on research proposals and funding opportunities	Funding agencies	40 minutes
14:50 – 15:00	Roundtable summary and a call to participate in a multi-institution green value chain program across MP	IIT Indore and MP Ensystems	10 minutes