



Field Note

Energy Driving Low Carbon Local Economies

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims for *inclusive* economic growth that *respects planetary boundaries*. The theme, “Energy Driving Low Carbon Local Economies”, views decentralised low-carbon production systems as drivers for inclusive, low-carbon economic growth. As an example of such a system, the field visit in the theme will showcase initiatives of Technology and Action for Rural Advancement (TARA), an incubation engine of Development Alternatives Group in the decentralised renewable energy-based electricity sector in four villages of Bihar. Through the visit, participants will explore the potential of decentralised renewable energy-based electricity systems to generate direct and indirect employment and provide socio-economic benefits without environmental repercussions. Participants will further explore how factors such as finance, policies, markets and skills affect the viability and impact of such development initiatives.

Overview of field sites

The field visit will cover four villages across two clusters in the districts of Gopalganj and Saran in Bihar. Participants will be divided into two groups and each group will visit two villages. A brief overview of the four villages is as follows:

Village	Village Overview	Electricity Situation
Nabiganj	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in Gopalganj cluster Has approx. 300 (potential) power consumers in terms of households and enterprises Average household income: INR 60,000/year 	Currently available sources of electricity include private diesel generators and solar energy-based power. While the centralised grid has reached the village, is not yet functional.
Dumarsan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in Gopalganj district. Major market in the region. Has approx. 700 (potential) power consumers in terms of households and enterprises Average household income: INR 1 lakh/year 	Currently available sources of electricity include private diesel generators, solar energy-based power. Centralised grid connectivity is coming up.
Bheldi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in Saran district Has approx. 1100 (potential) power consumers in terms of households and enterprises Average per capita income: INR 1 lakh/year 	Currently available sources of electricity include private diesel generators, solar energy-based power and the state grid. The centralised grid supplies electricity erratically for an average of 7-8 hours/day.
Fakirtoli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in Saran district Has approx. 200 (potential) power consumers in terms of households and enterprises Average per capita income: INR 70,000/year 	Currently available sources of electricity include private diesel generators, solar energy-based power and the state grid. The centralised grid supplies electricity erratically for an average of 8 hours/day.

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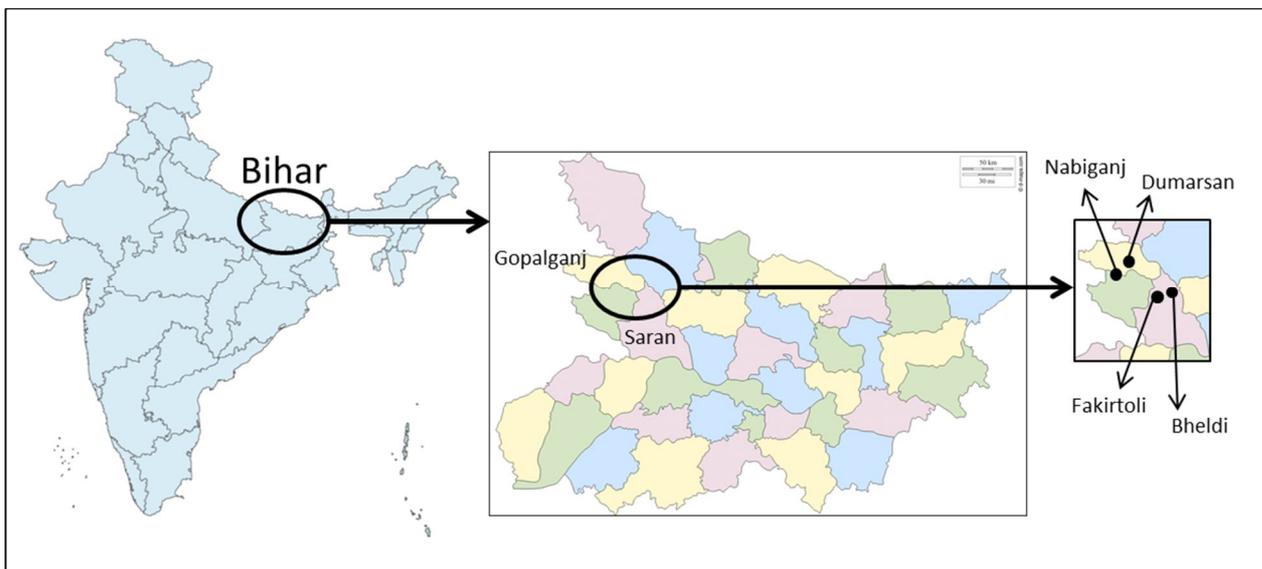


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Field sites

Structure and Agenda

While one group of participants is scheduled to visit Nabiganj and Dumarsan, the second group will visit Bheldi and Fakirtoli. The field visit of each group will follow the following structure:

Day 1 (8th October 2015)

Agenda: Day 1 (8 th October 2015)	
Time	Activity
6:45 AM	Departure from New Delhi for Patna by flight
8:20 AM	Arrival at Patna airport; departure from Patna airport for field sites by cab
11:30 AM	Arrival at field sites
11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	Field visit. Lunch will be served in the field site
5:30 PM	Departure from field site towards Hotel Simna International, Muzaffarpur by cab
8:30 PM	Arrival at Hotel Simna International, Muzaffarpur; dinner and overnight stay

- **Observation of solar power plant and distribution infrastructure:** The visit will begin with an observation of the installed technology. This segment of the visit aims to demonstrate the technical and economic specifications of the production and distribution model.



- Discussion with key stakeholders in the village:** Participants will engage in discussions with key stakeholders in the village. The stakeholders include the technical and managerial staff at the solar power plant, customers (households, shops, microenterprises) of the solar power plant, individuals who subscribe to alternative power sources, individuals without access to any form of electricity, panchayat representatives, etc. This segment of the visit aims to enable participants to explore socio-economic impact of the initiative. It also aims to explore the influence of factors such as policy environment, markets, finance, and skills and capacities, on the viability and impact of the initiative.



Day 2 (9th October 2015)

Agenda: Day 2 (9 th October 2015)	
Time	Activity
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Breakfast at Hotel Simna International, Muzaffarpur; checkout
11:30 AM	Arrival at field site
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM	Discussion among participants and delegation of stakeholders
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Lunch
2:30 PM	Departure for Patna airport
6:30 PM	Arrival at Patna airport
8:40 PM	Departure from Patna for New Delhi by flight
10:15 PM	Arrival at New Delhi airport

- Discussion among participants:** On the second day of the field visit, the two groups of participants will come together to share experiences and deliberate on the specific thrusts that are required in terms of policy, markets, finance and skills and capacities to ensure the viability of low-carbon technologies and local development initiatives. The participants will be joined by a delegation of stakeholders from the field to provide ground-level insights in this deliberation. This segment of the visit aims to consolidate the knowledge gained and perspectives built by the participants, building a foundation for the roundtable discussion scheduled for the next day.

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