

Clean Energy Solutions for Sundarbans

Executive summary

In India, even though electricity has reached various corners of India, there are still a few places which are in isolation with less probability of access to grid in the near future. This may be due to reasons such as remoteness, geographic location, political instability, etc. Three such sites have been identified in the Sundarbans region of West Bengal, which are extremely remote and difficult to access. These sites are located on islands where grid extension becomes extremely difficult due to an international water way, shared between India and Bangladesh, falling in between the main land and the island where building any infrastructure is not possible. The people of these areas are still dependent on kerosene lamps and diesel generators to meet their lighting needs, which act as an obstacle in increasing their standard of living.

Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO), which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), under its CSR initiative, has joined hands with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) to support the communities using solar energy. Three sites have been selected in the Sundarbans region, where lighting facility has been provided to households and market places. A total of 13kW capacity plants have been established in the region.

This initiative not only aims at dealing with the issue of poverty, where providing lighting facility may open new avenues for the people and increase their standard of living, but also looks at providing environmentally benign technology, which is suitable for the ecologically sensitive area of Sundarbans.