Bioenergy and Sustainability: Exploring Renewable Energy Alternatives in South Asia

“The advent of the modern environmental and energy discourse is usually considered to date back to the early 1960s” (Høyer 2007). With its diverse use in the industries, agriculture and domestic sectors, energy has become an important prerequisite for the economic growth and sustainability of any country. Non-renewable energy resources are depleting at a high rate. Either they are “too expensive to buy or already acquired by countries, which had planned and acted long time ago” (Ahmad n.d.). The efforts of the exploration in the sector have not come up with a satisfactory outcome hitherto in order to ensure the future energy need with the present technological solutions.

There is a dire need to explore the alternative and renewable energy solutions. Bioenergy can be instrumental in ensuring the future energy need of mankind with a low carbon solution. In South Asia, the sustainable bioenergy solutions face many challenges such as:

- The mass-scale implementation without strategic plan leading to a severe food insecurity issue.
- Habitat loss: Sustainability of the ecosystem for certain endangered species is also a limiting factor, e.g. the cultivation of Jatropha in desert ecosystem where the endemic and endangered species are present.
- Weak energy governance set-ups in South Asian countries where political scenarios are important for the continuation of a policy.
- Green house gas (GHG) emissions through supply chains.
- Insufficient technical knowledge regarding the technology involved.
- Capacity building of all stakeholders—public, private, producers and civil society members.

Speakers are invited to contribute papers for this panel which will focus on the above issues and challenges for sustainable bioenergy as an alternate energy solution in South Asia.

References:


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