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## Who We Are

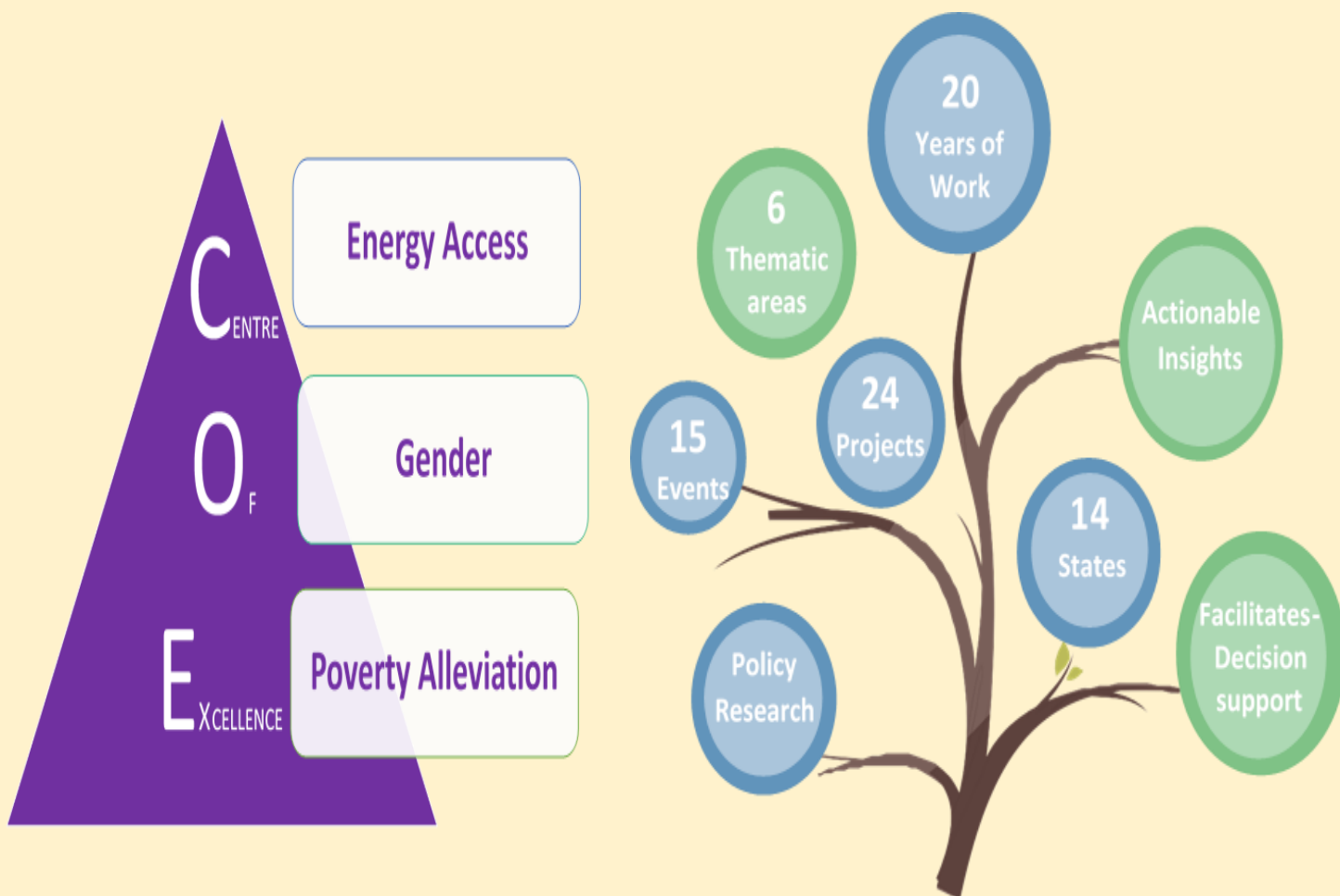
Integrated Research for Action and Development (IRADe) is an independent, non-profit advanced research institute that aims to conduct research and policy analysis to engage stakeholders such as government, non-governmental organizations, and corporations, academic and financial institutions. Energy, poverty alleviation, gender equity, climate change, sustainable development, agriculture and food security are some challenges faced by the world in the 21st century.

Unequal treatment of men and women and their differentiated social and economic roles have led to higher levels of poverty for women than for men. Therefore, achieving gender equity is important in improving the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programs. In order to enhance the capabilities of women ensure their participation and decision making rights, thereby enabling them to exercise control over their own lives, IRADe has focused especially on poor women while discussing energy, environment, and climate change and food security.

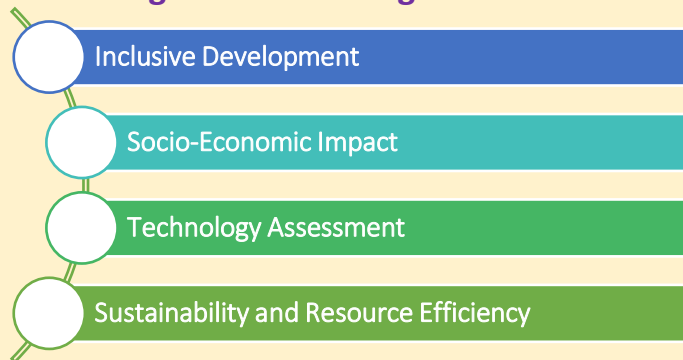
IRADe, as an Energy Access, Gender and Poverty Alleviation- Center of Excellence (EGP-CoE), has been working for two decades in 5 tracks Policy Advocacy and Dissemination, Research and Analysis for Decision Support, Action and Implementation at Local Level, Monitoring and Evaluations of Projects, Training and Capacity Building. The Center networks with the government, ministries/departments, international organizations, public and private sectors, academic experts, NGOs, and consultants to work on projects awarded by them.

In the energy sector, IRADe is advocating that more attention should be given to the problems associated with the non-commercial energy sector (fuel-wood). Clean and convenient energy sources are needed to reduce women's drudgery and increase access to cooking and other household and productive purposes. This can dramatically affect women's levels of empowerment, education, literacy, nutrition, health, economic opportunities, and involvement in self-development activities, including community participation.

In the last two decades, IRADe has been involved in projects relating to mainstreaming gender in the energy sector reform and climate strategies; evaluation of government programmes to increase access to clean energy for women; the gender dimension of energy sector reforms and regulation.



## Working in Cross Cutting Themes



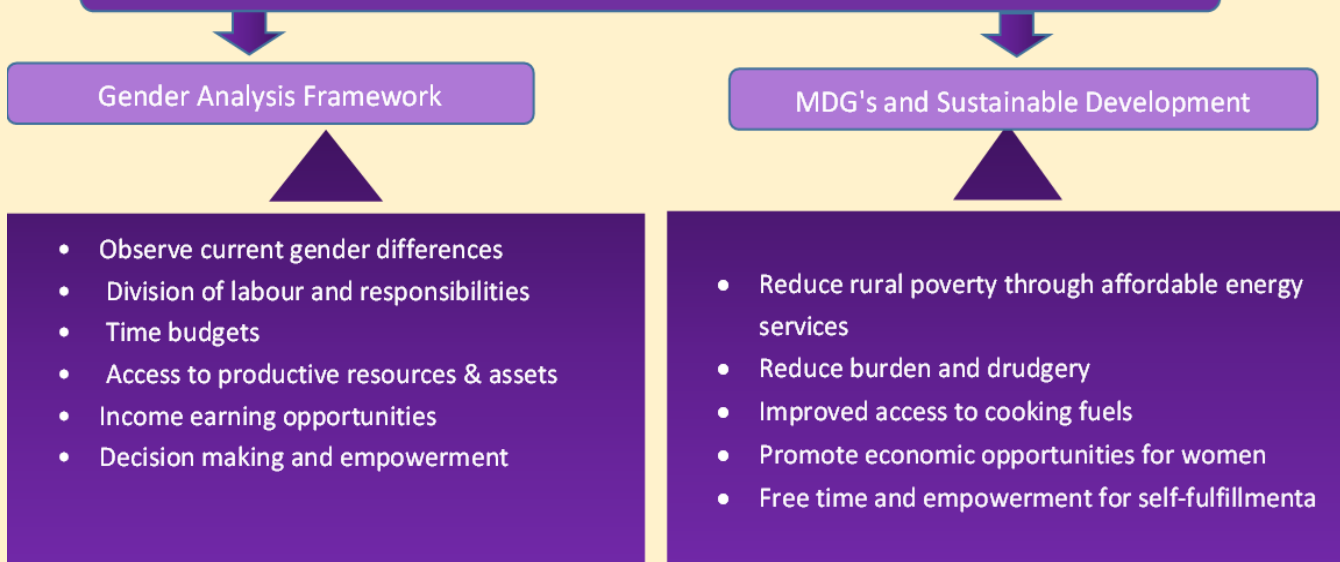
## Key Activities



## Activities Linked with SDG Goals



## Analytical Frameworks for Gender, Energy and Poverty Alleviation



## Policy Advocacy and Dissemination

IRADe aims to advance the policy research studies by connecting with stakeholders, including policy-makers, partners, practitioners, and other organizations to advance the intended impact. Policy engagement processes are variable and are affected by various opportunities identified within the policy landscape. Various ongoing and previous studies help build new knowledge on gender-sensitive plans and develop institutional capacities to address vulnerabilities. “Gender audit of national energy policies in India,” “Gender and Renewable Energy in India,” and “Mainstreaming Gender in Energy Policy” draws attention to the lack of gender concerns in national energy policies in India and suggests policy measures with a clear articulation of gender goals in the preparation of energy programs using explicit indicators, investment, inter-ministerial coordination at policy-level. The studies promote capacity building at various levels, awareness, and press on gender-neutral benefits of programs and policies.

## Research and Analysis for Decision Support

IRADe contributes to decision-making through research and field surveys that aim to understand, observe and interact with people using specialized research tools. A study titled “Impact Assessment of Electricity Access on Health and Education” captured the impact of quality of electricity access on health and education delivery in two Indian states and suggested measures for policy synergies and energy efficiency for resource optimization. IRADe carried out five interlinked studies to understand the implications of climate change on human development and poverty in India. A series of surveys were conducted under “Clean cooking fuel: Issues and Challenge” to illuminate unique findings linking energy, gender, and economics. IRADe also analyzed the impact of Kerosene-free Delhi scheme.

Vulnerability to climate for the state of Assam and its socio-economic implications on agriculture, water, and forestry was assessed, and reforming the livelihood of vulnerable groups such as farmers, forest dwellers, women, and other multiple stakeholders need to be given special attention. Similarly, gender-specific surveys were involved in addressing the issues of poverty, gender, environment, and health issues in Himachal Pradesh.

## Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects

Evaluates programs and systems to assess the progress made to achieve the expected results, challenges, and effects from a plan or program activity. IRADe was chosen as the National Focal Point of ENERGIA International Network for Gender and Sustainable Energy, demonstrated the techno-economic parameters for village energy security, and mobilized communities to operate a cooperative model to run the project. IRADe monitored and evaluated the technical performance of Solar PV systems such as solar lanterns, solar home lightings, and stand-alone solar power plants installed in Himachal Pradesh in 2008, 2009, and 2010. “Evaluation of solar photovoltaic demonstration programme” was carried out in six states to evaluate the solar photovoltaic water pumping program, solar lighting in India, and its effect on the lifestyle of the beneficiaries. Similarly, “Evaluation of solar thermal demonstration programme” was carried out in four Indian states to evaluate the use of solar cookers in domestic and institutional settings.

IRADe assessed the Remote Village Electrification program in Haryana and Rajasthan. The operation of a franchise system for village electrification distribution management in Assam, West Bengal, and Nagaland was envisaged to achieve revenue sustainability and uninterrupted power supply in the rural area. IRADe evaluated this franchisee system and was seen as a potent way to protect investments under the village electrification plan. In another study, the team attempted to identify challenges in the effective uptake of policy on Bio-diesel in India and suggested ways to scale up the outreach of services to the poor and vulnerable.

## Action and Implementation at Local Level

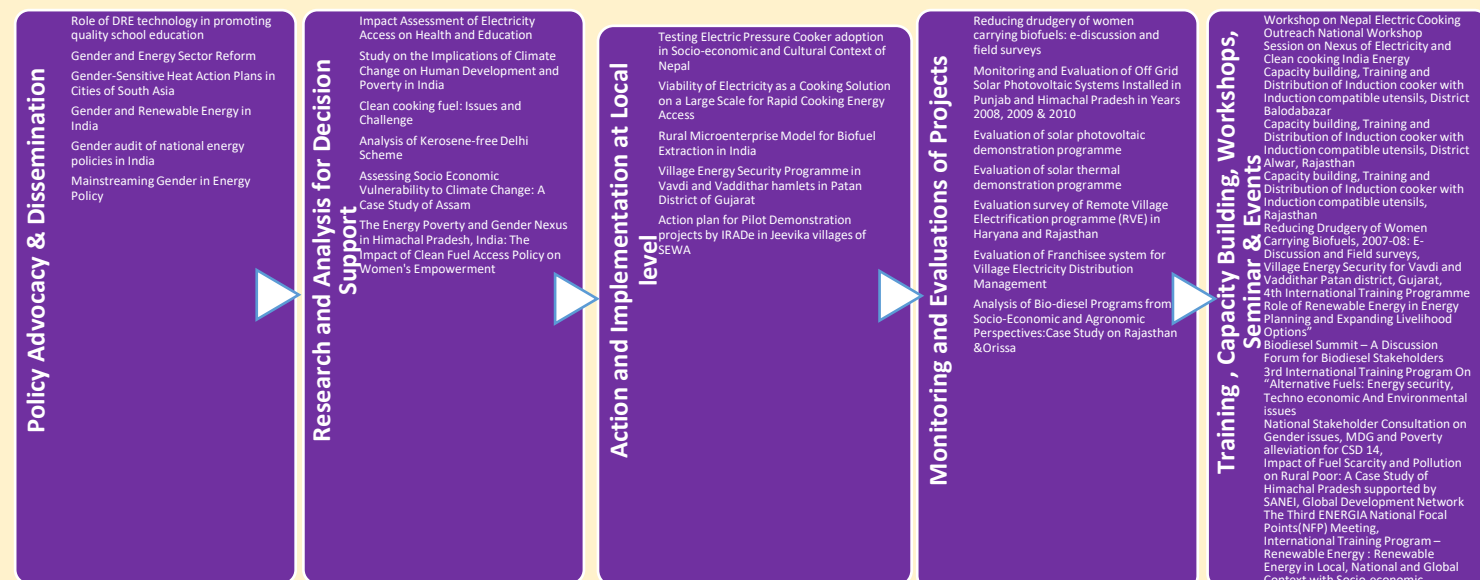
IRADe has actively implemented community-scale projects in clean cooking, energy security, and livelihoods. In the study “Testing Electric Pressure Cooker adoption in Socio-economic and Cultural Context of Nepal” the team distributed EPCs in rural and urban women communities and conducted device demonstrations and hands-on training to promote electric cooking in Nepal. Another study, “Viability of Electricity as a Cooking Solution on a Large Scale for Rapid Cooking Energy Access” explored the possibility of using induction cooktop as a clean cooking option in rural areas of Rajasthan and



Chhattisgarh in India. Induction cooktop intervention was carried out in 40 selected households, and the uptake was recorded via the monitoring schedule.

To provide a sustainable livelihood for people, IRADe established a micro-enterprise model for locally available bio-fuel extraction. The benefits of the model on socio-economic conditions of the community were demonstrated using local resources. IRADe, in close cooperation with Self Employed Women Association (SEWA), Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA), and the village panchayat, implemented “Village Energy Security Programme in Vavdi and Vaddithar hamlets in Patan District of Gujarat”. IRADe collaborated with SEWA Gujarat to incorporate energy technology systems in Jeevika villages to increase livelihood opportunities, enhance income generation, and improve living conditions.

## Projects conducted under sub themes



## IRADe Publications





# Glimpses of IRADe Projects



## South Asia and Global Reach

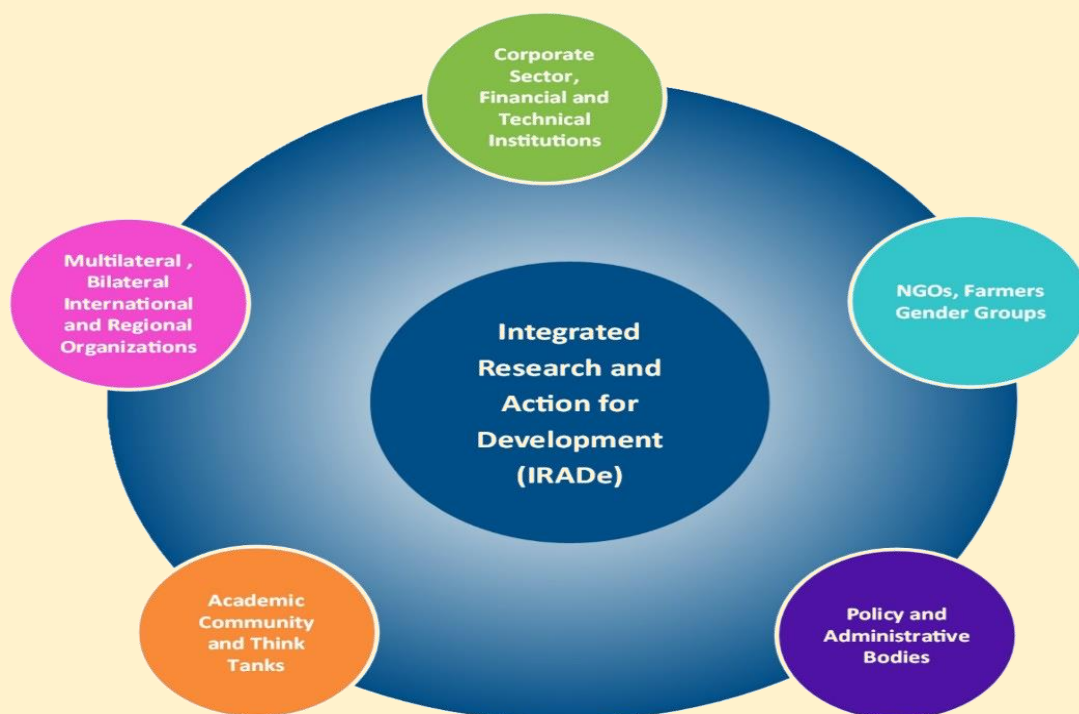
In order to address poverty and gender issues in all the other 5 thematic areas, enhance the capabilities of women and to ensure increased participation of women in decision making, IRADe focuses on the poor, especially women, while discussing energy, environment, climate change, cities or agriculture. In the energy sector, IRADe is advocating that more attention should be given to the non-commercial energy sector (fuel-wood) managed by women, providing 27 percent of national energy. Currently, sustainable energy for all (SE 4 all) is some of the high-profile initiatives of the UN and others. In the last few years, IRAD has undertaken various research studies in this sector to address this pressing issue and organized or participated in conferences.

Energy Access, Gender and Poverty Alleviation cannot be solved within national boundaries, and South Asia and Global concerns have to come in. IRADe, through the South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration (SARI/EI) supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), works with ministries and policymakers, regulators, system operators, multilateral agencies, think tanks and civil society

- Especially in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka (BBINS), to increase Cross Border Energy Trade (CBET) within the countries to increase clean energy transition in the region

South Asia Regional energy cooperation will ultimately lead to cheaper power and accelerated economic and social development through renewable energy and pumped hydropower, with closed and open-loop to help the South Asian countries meet their NDC commitment. IRADe also worked on renewable energy transition support and developed solutions at the local, regional, national level, e.g., electric cooking in India and Nepal.

## Our Partner In Progress



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NITI Aayog



Ministry of New and Renewable Energy  
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Endless energy. Infinite possibilities.



Indian Council of  
Social Science Research



Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe) C-80 Shivalik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi – 110017

Tel.: 91 (11) 2667 6180, 2667 6181, 2668 2226

Our Websites and Social Media Handles:

Web: [www.irade.org](http://www.irade.org)

SARI website: [www.sari-energy.org](http://www.sari-energy.org)

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