
CLIMATE INITIATIVE: DOWN-TO-EARTH ACTIONS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CRISIS

We need your help to continue our program to install biogas units and plant native trees in rural India as one of the practical ways to address the climate crisis. Since 2021, IDRF has supported biogas and reforestation projects in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh. These projects are spearheaded by Dr. Emmanuel D'Silva, an agriculture and environment specialist and a World Bank retiree. Biogas from animal waste eliminates the need to cut trees for firewood and planting trees helps to replenish the forest resource. We have had encouraging results from the 25 biogas units installed so far, and plan to expand the coverage to 500 rural families over the next few years.

Each biogas unit of 2 cubic meters yields clean energy for a family, and eliminates indoor pollution that kills nearly 1.2 million Indians, mostly women and children. Biogas slurry, a byproduct, can be a good substitute for chemical fertilizers in local farms. These eco-friendly units save women's time in firewood collection (about a week per month) and avoid 3 tons of carbon emission per year.

Your gift of \$450 can set up one biogas unit and provide health and climate benefits to a poor rural family.

IDRF has also supported the plantation of 20,000 saplings in 31 villages of Chhattisgarh. Local women's self-help groups and community members have been mobilized to plant and a mobile app helps to track the survival and growth of the saplings. IDRF also plans to support the creation of "mini forests" in these communities using the Miyawaki Method. These man-made forests can mimic the natural forests and restore ecosystems lost or damaged in the past. Because the space requirement is small—100 square meters to start—it may be possible in the future for every village and school to have a forest at the cost of an iPhone.

Your gift of \$1,000 can plant 350 trees and fight climate change for a more sustainable future.



**Geeta with her biogas unit and a new cook stove.
She says her life has been totally transformed.**