

## **Please help with IDRF's new climate initiative**

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**IDRF plans several environment-friendly “green projects” to solve the climate challenges at the grassroots level in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.**

IDRF is pleased to announce a new climate initiative funding green projects in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka aimed at reducing 100,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. IDRF will identify NGOs to collaborate on grassroots projects in biogas, reforestation, regenerative agriculture, smokeless stoves, and rural solar installations. As these projects qualify for carbon credits the effort will be spearheaded by Dr. Emmanuel D'Silva, an agriculture, and environment specialist and World Bank retiree. Dr. D'Silva has helped with the initial project at Shiksha Bharati in Uttar Pradesh, which is showing encouraging results and with your contributions, IDRF will expand it further.

### **An eco-friendly Biogas unit for IDRF-tribal girls' hostel in Uttar Pradesh**

IDRF's partner Shiksha Bharati's education complex is spread over a 20-acre campus in Hapur, about 65 kilometers east of New Delhi. The trust was started in 1988 by local social workers and philanthropists to empower girls through value-based education.

IDRF in partnership with Dr. Emmanuel D'Silva helped Shiksha Bharati set up two, new biogas units: a-20 cubic meter digester close to the gaushala run on cow dung and an-8 cubic meter unit run on human waste from the toilets in the girls' hostel. The biogas generated from the units meets most of the kitchen fuel needs of the hostel where 66 students are residing. Unlike traditional dome-shaped cow-dung biogas plants made of bricks and cement, these are constructed of synthetic material that is much cheaper to source. The technology is sourced from Mexico but fabricated in India. The new unit saves about four cylinders of LPG gas per month in winters and five cylinders in summers.

The biogas units have already generated considerable interest locally. The state's Minister for Panchayats came on a visit to see the biogas plant and showed his appreciation for IDRF's eco-friendly vision. The project is inspiring other semi-rural schools that have student hostels, gardens or cattle sheds to build their own biogas units.



Tribal girls at the IDRF-hostel benefit from the new biogas plant on the campus



Clean Biogas fuels the hostel kitchen