

BIRAC INNOVATION CHALLENGE AWARD 2020-21

SoCH 2020-21

*Innovative, Efficient and Affordable
Solutions for Clean Cooking in Rural and
Community Settings*

Webinar

*Pushing the Envelope on
Innovation in Clean Cooking*

Date: 6th July, 2020

Time: 4.00pm – 5.30pm

Register [here](#) to join the webinar.

For queries please contact: sped-5@birac.nic.in



Speakers



**Dr (Prof) Ambuj
Sagar**
IIT Delhi



**Dr Priyadarshini
Karve**
Samuchit Enviro



Simon Batchelor
MECS



**Dr Nitin K.
Labhsetwar**
CSIR-NEERI



Manoj Kumar
Social Alpha



Adwait Joshi
CLEAN

Speaker



Dr. (Prof) Ambuj Sagar

Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Professor of Policy Studies and Founding Head, School of Public Policy IIT, Delhi

Ambuj Sagar is the Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Professor of Policy Studies and the founding Head of the School of Public Policy at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Ambuj's interests broadly lie at the intersection of science, technology and development.

His recent work has focused on innovation policy for meeting sustainability and inclusivity challenges, energy innovation policy and strategies (in areas such as renewables, clean household cooking energy, air pollution, coal power, automobiles, and institutional mechanisms such as climate innovation centers), climate change policy and politics, capacity development, and higher education policy.

He has been consultant/advisor/committee member with various Indian Government ministries/agencies as well as many international agencies.

Ambuj did his undergraduate studies in Mechanical Engineering at IIT Delhi. He subsequently received an M.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Michigan and then an M.S. in Materials Science, a Ph.D. in Polymer Science, and an M.S. in Technology and Policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Speaker



Dr. Priyadarshini Karve

Director and CEO of Samuchit Enviro, practitioner as well as one of the top scientists in India working on clean cooking for a few decades

Dr. Priyadarshini Karve completed Ph.D. in Physics from University of Pune, in 1998. Her first research project resulted in the development of a process for converting agricultural waste into charcoal. The technology won the Ashden Award for Renewable Energy in 2002.

In a career spanning more than 20 years, Dr. Karve invented a number of improved biomass burning cooking devices, to reduce smoke in the kitchen and dependence on firewood for domestic cooking in rural areas. She has also worked on “decentralised organic waste-to-fuel” technologies. She developed a methodology for technology selection and promotion to improve adoption of clean cooking energy devices by end users. In the past 5 years or so, her work has also focused on devising and promoting strategies for low carbon, sustainable urbanisation. In 2005, she started Samuchit Enviro Tech, a social enterprise that promotes environmentally sustainable energy and lifestyle products.

Dr. Karve is a Founder Member and a Member of the Board of Directors of Clean Energy Access Network (CLEAN), a registered society in India, and serves on the Governing and Advisory Bodies of a number of other national and international organisations. She is also the National Convener of Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC). Her work has been honoured by several national and international awards and honours.

Speaker



Simon Batchelor

UK Research and Innovation Co-ordinator, Modern Energy Cooking Services Programme (MECS)

Simon is the UK Research and Innovation co-ordinator. He has over 30 years of experience in development. Starting in agriculture and water provision in the 80's, he focused on Wind and Solar energy, contributing to the early development of renewable energy in Africa and Asia.

In the 90's, he designed and implemented an innovative programme of social mobilisation in Cambodia – which saw considerable impact over a ten year period. This experience influenced his interest in the importance of social factors in technology adoption, and led to stream of participatory research focused on the role of energy in development. In 2002, based on research in Africa, Simon began to Champion the potential of using Mobile Phones for banking the unbanked and lowering remittance costs. From 2010 onwards he has returned to his clean energy roots, and is currently part of a number of research teams on low carbon programmes. A practitioner at heart, he is currently Director of Gamos Ltd, which undertakes action research and learning on the social factors influencing development programmes.

Speaker



Dr. Nitin K. Labhsetwar

Chief Scientist & Head, Energy &
Resource Management Division, CSIR-
NEERI

Dr. Nitin Labhsetwar is a Ph.D. with over 32 years of research experience in environmental and energy related research. He has been actively working on- Rural indoor emission control, cleaner energy generation including carbon capture, rural energy (Development & deployment of Improved cook stoves and IEC activities) etc.

He has worked as STA/JSPS Fellow and Visiting Overseas Researcher at NIMS, Tsukuba, Japan and as a Visiting Professor at Kyushu University, Japan under the GCOE programme on Novel Carbon Resource Sciences. He has over 165 research publications with over 4800 citations and 22 international patents, 6 design registrations in addition to a few contributions in books. He has so far contributed to more than 75 projects and also coordinating the CSIR-800/HARIT programme of Rural Development at CSIR-NEERI.

Speaker



Manoj Kumar

Founder and CEO, Social Alpha

Manoj is the Founder and CEO of Social Alpha. Social Alpha is a mission to drive economic growth, social justice and climate action through the power of entrepreneurship and market-creating innovations. Since its inception in 2016, Social Alpha has been strengthening the science and technology start-up ecosystem in India with a focus on “lab to market” enablement and has nurtured more than 130 start-ups.

Social Alpha architecture integrates the innovation, incubation and investment ecosystems and allows for an effective mechanism for allocating resources to mission-driven entrepreneurs throughout their lab to market progression. At Social Alpha, we believe that entrepreneurship has the potential to create deep impact and bring about a positive change in the lives of people and communities. We search for entrepreneurs and innovators who are on a 'mission to create social, economic and environmental impact' and support them as they build compelling solutions to fight poverty and address India's intractable development sector challenges. We primarily focus on science and technology innovations which usually involve high business risks but have the potential to achieve financial sustainability and a non-linear scale eventually. The objective is to create new markets and solutions that also work for the underserved and underprivileged, are affordable and accessible, without compromising on quality and user experience.

Speaker



Adwait Joshi

CEO, Clean Energy Access Network

Adwait is CEO of CLEAN (Clean Energy Access Network), a non-profit network of 220+ clean energy organisations, committed to support, unify and grow impact driven clean energy enterprises in India.

CLEAN is considered as the industry body for the Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE) sector of the country. Its primary focus is on rural and underprivileged communities where reliable, affordable and clean energy plays a unique role in accelerating social, environmental and economic development. CLEAN has contributed to development and influencing policies for the sector, bridged access to finance for clean energy start-ups, facilitated technology innovations, assisted its members in expanding their market reach and built capacity of clean energy enterprises.

Prior to CLEAN, Adwait was Associate Director at Samhita Social Ventures, a leading CSR Consulting firm. An engineer by graduation, he started his career with co-founding a rural centric waste-to-energy startup.