



Concept Note

Roundtable Discussion

Towards Inclusive and Cohesive Low-carbon Development in Rajasthan

Venue: Hilton Hotel, 42, Mangalam GeejGarh House, Hawa Sadak, Jaipur

10.00 am – 1.30 pm

24 November, 2022

Background

The looming climate crisis facing India makes the need for adopting low-carbon strategy of development imperative. Coupled with this is the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in increased inequality in India. Therefore, there is a need for adopting low-carbon strategy of development that also offers economic and social co-benefits. In this context, CBGA's research study on - "**Building Inclusive and Cohesive Public Climate Financing Framework in the States**" is meant to strengthen knowledge and capacity for facilitating inclusive, low-carbon development trajectories of the State economies in India. Through a Roundtable, we wish to understand the starting points of our work in this area.

Relevance of Continued Efforts Towards Low-carbon Development Trajectory in Rajasthan

Energy is the key sector from point of GHG emission reduction potential and need continued efforts and financing by state governments. In Rajasthan, more than two-third of the State's total GHG emissions is contributed by the energy sector. That means promotion of renewable energy is an essential strategy for low-carbon development in the state. Rajasthan has been at the forefront in terms of adding renewable energy capacity in the country, aided by significant private sector involvement in the sector. Towards this end, policy interventions in the last few years by the Government of Rajasthan (GoR) and by the Union Government, have played a crucial role in providing cohesive environment through its policy directives. Rajasthan has also put in place policies for low-carbon growth trajectories in a number of sectors and appropriate regulatory frameworks for attracting private sector investment in this space. Further, it has also been performing well in schemes and programmes (such as PM-KUSUM, Skilling for green jobs, etc.) that bring in developmental co-benefits.

Recognising the need for promoting low-carbon development for inclusive and sustainable economy, the GoR has also introduced new policies in the last few months (e.g. Climate Change Policy, 2022; EV Policy, 2022).

These efforts would obviously need to be backed by adequate public financing. At the same time, it needs to be noted, that the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down public financing for climate mitigation actions in Rajasthan, particularly in the power and renewable energy sector. Under these circumstances, external investments (either domestic private or international) will have to play a crucial role in accelerating low-carbon development. At the same time, addressing the issue of



shrinking income and livelihood opportunities too have become another important concern for many state governments during the pandemic, implying that bringing in inclusiveness in public financing is need of the hour.

However, often there is a need to unpack information available with external investors in public domain about public financing opportunities and climate policy directions offered by the State. Hence, through our work we are attempting to unpack the public financing, policies and efforts for low carbon development in Rajasthan and providing inputs for building cohesive and inclusive climate financing environment in the State.

Objective of the Roundtable

The Roundtable would aim to disseminate the findings from our research on unpacking the existing framework of public financing for climate change mitigation actions - clean energy financing in Rajasthan. In CBGA's research study, several relevant government policies have been mapped. Our analysis has identified the climate-relevant programmes and schemes and tracked the fiscal outlay by different departments in Rajasthan in the most recent years. We have also assessed some of the existing schemes that bring in co-benefits such as the PM-KUSUM scheme and others related to skilling from the inclusion lens, and suggestions have been made for bringing cohesiveness (as well as inclusiveness) in policies for accelerating climate finance. The Roundtable would also be a platform to discuss the opportunities and challenges that Rajasthan faces in low-carbon development.

Some Key Questions for the Roundtable Discussion

In this context, the Roundtable discussion is an effort to initiate a dialogue on –

- How can climate financing be made more effective for augmenting external financing (private or international) opportunities in Rajasthan to strengthen low-carbon trajectories in the State?
- How can climate financing be used to overcome some of the challenges in programmes and schemes that bring in co-benefits and what could be the framework for up-skilling for green jobs in Rajasthan?
- What are challenges facing the power sector and what needs to be done to ensure effective public financing planning for climate change through budgetary processes?