Gold Standard
for the Global Goals

TEMPLATE

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION & PROGRAMME DESIGN DOCUMENT (POA-DD)

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VERSION **2.2**

RELATED SUPPORT

- Programme of Activity requirements
- TEMPLATE GUIDE Key Project Information & PoA Design Document v.2.2.1

This document contains the following Sections

Key Project Information

SECTION A– General description of PoA
SECTION B - Management System and Inclusion Criteria
SECTION C – Demonstration of additionality
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SECTION E - Outcome of Stakeholder Consultations

0 – Contact information of coordinating/managing entity and responsible person(s)/ entity(ies)
Appendix 2 - Design Changes

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

GS ID of Programme	GS 12201
Title of Programme:	"Improved Cookstoves for Sustainable Rural Development in India"
Type of PoA	☒Non – Forestry and/or Non -AGR PoA ☐Forestry and/or AGR PoA
VPAs scale included in the PoA *Note that same PoA can included VPAs of different scales. Please select all applicable.*	☐Microscale ☒Small scale ☐Large scale
Start Date of POA	
Date of Design Certification	NA
Start date of crediting cycle of PoA	
Version number of the PoA-DD	
Completion date of the PoA-DD	
Coordinating/managing entity	Outreach Projects Private Limited
Project Participants and any communities involved	NA
Host Country (ies)	India
Activity Requirements applied	☒ Community Services Activities ☐ Renewable Energy Activities ☐ Land Use and Forestry Activities/Risks & Capacities ☐ N/A
Other Requirements applied	**Program of Activity Requirements, version 1.2** **Community Service Activity Requirements, Version 1.2**
Methodology (ies) applied and version number	Reduced Emissions from Cooking and Heating: Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC version 04.0)

	AMS-II.G: Energy Efficiency measures in thermal applications of non-renewable biomass. Version 13.0
Product Requirements applied	☒ GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration ☐ Renewable Energy Label ☐ N/A

REAL CASE VPAS (ALL REAL CASE VPAS INCLUDED IN THE POA)

GS ID	Title
GS12287	GS 12201 VPA-1 Improved Cookstoves for Sustainable Rural Development in India

SECTION A. General description of PoA

A.1. Purpose and general description of the PoA

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General Operating and implementing Framework of PoA

Access to clean energy for cooking remains a formidable challenge for numerous households throughout India. The use of traditional biomass cookstoves is widespread, with over 800 million Indians relying on them. The extensive use of these conventional cookstoves gives rise to significant health risks and constrains opportunities, particularly for women. These challenges, however, can be mitigated through access to modern, fuel-efficient cookstoves.

According to NFHS-5[1], National Family Health Survey the dominant fuel mixture used in rural India comprises firewood, charcoal, and chips. Approximately two-thirds of households continue to depend on these resources. Ensuring access to fundamental resources and amenities is crucial for promoting health and sanitation, with an intrinsic connection to the overall well-being of the population.

In response to these challenges, this PoA strives to initiate an expansive distribution initiative, aiming to provide Improved Cookstoves to low-income consumers across the nation. Financial support for this PoA will be facilitated through an innovative climate/SDG financing approach, which will help households overcome challenges related to affordability, availability, and consumer financing.

Driving this PoA is Outreach Projects, the entity responsible for coordinating and managing the project. Outreach Projects is dedicated to improving livelihoods through impactful interventions, including the distribution of Neerdhur cookstoves.

Under this PoA, Outreach Projects aims to provide rural households with contemporary, energy-efficient replacements for traditional mud stoves (chulhas), offering remarkable fuel savings of 65% and significantly reducing smoke emissions by 70%. These modern cookstoves are adaptable to a variety of solid biomass fuels, presenting a transformative alternative to conventional cooking methods. By addressing the health and environmental issues associated with traditional cookstoves, the

[1] India.pdf (rchiips.org)

Neerdhur cookstoves effectively mitigate harmful CO, PM, and GHG emissions, contributing to improved well-being, particularly among active beneficiaries such as women, and passive beneficiaries including children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities who often bear the brunt of indoor air pollution. Additionally, the adoption of these cookstoves promises economic relief through reduced fuel consumption, generating opportunities for savings.

Policy/measure or stated goal of PoA

VPAs under the PoA will involve the distribution of efficient cook stoves to households cooking with non-renewable biomass. The technologies will reduce carbon emissions by allowing families to cook the same amount of food using less non-renewable biomass, thus further reducing carbon emissions. Additionally, the programme will yield a range of extra sustainability benefits that will provide beneficiaries with further economic, social and environmental improvements. Confirmation that the proposed PoA is a voluntary action by the coordinating/managing entity

There are no laws and regulation till date for the distribution of fuel efficient cookstoves in India. It follows that the PoA is a voluntary action.

Contribution to Sustainable Development Goal:

The project is poised to make significant contributions toward the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDG-3: Good Health and Well Being, SDG-5: Gender Equality, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, and SDG-13: Climate Action.

The proposed PoA serves as a catalyst for sustainable development across multiple dimensions:

a. **Environmental**
   - The PoA stands to make substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions throughout its lifespan.
   - By decreasing the consumption of non-renewable biomass, the PoA actively affect the rate of deforestation. This, in turn, contributes to the preservation of existing forest stocks, safeguarding natural forest ecosystems and the habitats of wildlife. Protecting standing forests also ensures the maintenance of watersheds, regulating water table levels, mitigating flash flooding, and diminishing land erosion and nutrient loss.

- Since the PoA reduces the need of rural household members to frequently collect biomass, it also significantly reduces the possibilities of human-animal conflict.

b. Social

- The burden of collecting wood fuel will be significantly alleviated, leading to reduced strain on rural families. This, in turn, creates opportunities for new livelihood options and an improved standard of living.
- The emission of indoor air pollutants resulting from biomass burning within family homes will be reduced. This reduction in Carbon Dioxide (CO_2), Carbon Monoxide (CO), and particulate emissions translates to a lower likelihood of respiratory ailments, thereby positively impacting household health.
- Women and girls in rural households will benefit from reduced cooking times, allowing them greater freedom to engage in other livelihood options.
- Enhanced safety within the home environment will lead to a decrease in injuries and burns, as the implementation of efficient cook stoves provides a safer cooking experience, rendering the use of large vessels of boiling water unnecessary.

c. Economic

- The increased thermal efficiency of the cookstoves will reduce costs associated with fuel procurement. This liberated capital can then be directed towards essential needs like food, healthcare, and education.
- Rural women will gain improved access to economic opportunities, given the availability of more productive time.
- The rural economy will experience positive repercussions, as the implementation and operation of these projects generate employment opportunities.
- In summary, the proposed PoA's multifaceted impacts underline its potential to foster sustainable development across environmental, social, and economic dimensions. Its alignment with key SDGs reflects its commitment to effecting positive change in these critical areas.

A.2. Physical/ Geographical boundary of the PoA

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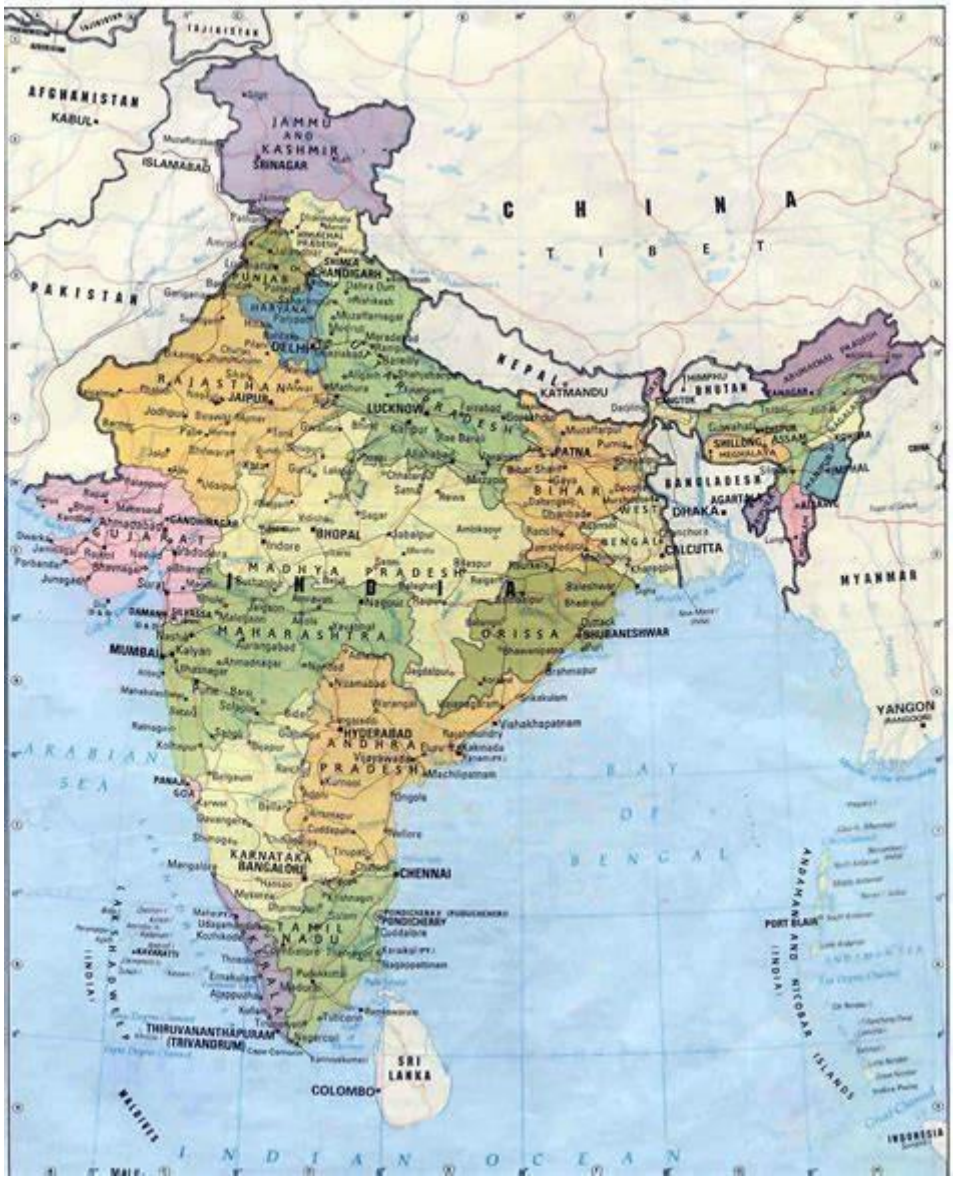
The PoA will be implemented across all state of the host country; India



A.3. Technologies/measures

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The PoA encompasses the wide-scale introduction of improved cookstove technologies across India. The product range mentioned below, along with other similar measures, may be integrated into this PoA through different Real case VPAs. These enhanced cookstoves employ air regulation technology to significantly diminish emissions during the cooking process, thereby positively impacting key SDGs:

a. SDG-3: Good Health and Well Being
b. SDG-5: Gender Equality

c. SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
d. SDG-13: Climate Action

These efforts hold potential to notably enhance the well-being of women, who are primarily engaged in cooking and fuelwood collection. Through the enhancement of cooking efficiency, the improved cookstoves effectively reduce the demand for fuelwood. At the end of the product's lifespan, the Project Developer (PP) will replace the system, or units will be excluded from emissions calculations.

Eligibility within the Gold Standard framework:

This project aligns with the general eligibility criteria outlined in section 3. It also comply with the eligibility principles and requirements detailed in Section 4 of the GS4GG Principles & Requirements document. As per clause 3.1.1 of the GS4GG Principles and Requirements document, projects automatically qualify for eligibility if they are associated with Gold Standard published Activity Requirements and/or Gold Standard Approved Methodologies or as referenced in Gold Standard Product Requirements. As per clause 3.1.1 of GG4GG Community Services Activity Requirements, the types of projects eligible encompass Renewable Energy, End-use Energy Efficiency, Waste Management & Handling, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene projects. The proposed project falls under the category of End-use Energy Efficiency, as indicated by clause 3.1.1 (b) of GG4GG Community Services Activity Requirements.

The Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) featured in the project fall under the End-use Energy Efficiency category as per clause 3.1.1 (b). The Project's activities will curtail energy requirements in comparison to a baseline scenario, all the while maintaining the same level and quality of services or products. The beneficiaries of these products and services are explicitly identified as individual household users, necessitating physical intervention at the user end.

Cookstoves

Under the PoA ICS will be deployed which will reach a specified efficiency of at least 20%. The initial type of cookstoves disseminated for household usage under the PoA in Real case VPA1 is portable stoves by Neerdhur cookstove which uses biomass and firewood and agricultural waste. The current efficiency of the stove is upto 37.31%. The CME may use different ICS over time to increase the efficiency and user friendliness.

The project has been developed under a retroactive approach, focusing on providing access to Improved Cookstoves to households, thus contributing to climate change mitigation.

Eligible Project Types and Scope

The project leads to reduction in carbon emissions due to burning of firewood in inefficient mud cookstoves used in the baseline. CME will distribute improved cookstoves in rural communities for reducing the firewood consumptions and improve the status of Indoor Air Pollutions.

a) **Types of Project:** The project falls under – Type II – Energy Efficiency Improved Projects
b) **Location of Project:** Project is located in host country India
c) **Project Area, Boundary and Scale:** Whole India, and all states in the host country, Boundary: territorial boundary of India. Scale:- the project falls under small-scale projects. Each of the improved cookstove (ICS) will be having output below 150kW and aggregated of 180 GWh at VPA level.

   To prevent any potential double counting, rigorous measures have been established at both entity and individual levels, outlined in section B.1, "Measures to Avoid Double Counting." In essence, each VPA implementer will affirm that the proposed VPA isn't part of any other PoA or carbon offset scheme at inclusion. Each user will declare that their respective household hasn't participated in any other carbon offset project/program. A physical inspection of each household will further verify their lack of prior participation in carbon offset schemes. The CME's local distribution partner will assist in identifying project areas untouched by similar carbon offset programs. Additionally, the project area will undergo periodic checks during VPA implementation to ensure no similar projects overlap, and if they do, appropriate actions will be taken to prevent double counting. Consequently, the PoA effectively addresses double counting concerns through a robust implementation and management system.
d) **Legal Ownership:** The CME holds the legal right to claim emission reduction offsets generated by PoA operations. This is ensured by mutually agreed categorical declarations and contract agreements between the CME and other stakeholders, transferring rights to the CME and precluding claims by other parties. Notably, the CME has signed an MoU with the local distribution partner

for the transfer of rights on emission reduction assets in favor of the CME. Emission reductions' entitlement is transferred to the project developer from beneficiary households through signed declarations.

It shall also be noted that the complete mechanism of claiming carbon offsets due to cookstove operations and the requirement of transfer of rights from cookstove users to the CME was discussed during the local stakeholder consultation meeting conducted by the CME at PoA and VPA levels.

e) **Host Country requirements:** The project is in compliance with the host country's (India's) legal, environmental, ecological & social regulation. There are no objections for the implementation of these types improved cook stoves (ICS) project in the host country i.e., India and same can be checked from the MOEF (Ministry of Environment & Forest) & MNRE (Ministry of New & Renewable Energy) websites[2].

f) **Contact Details:** The contact details of the project developer and project participants are included under the appendix 1 of this report, kindly refer to the Appendix 1

g) **Other Rights:** there are no other rights involved in this project. The ownership of the project device lies with beneficiaries and the carbon benefits are transferred from the beneficiary to CME. Implementation of the proposed project doesn't involve any activity that causes alteration of any resource; therefore, acquiring any specific legal right to do so is not applicable.

h) **ODA declaration:** CME has provided a declaration of non-use of ODA by the project owner. And the declaration would be provided with each following VPAs.

It is worth noting that the CME has affirmed that the proposed Gold Standard project activity is not registered with any other scheme.

The project and its VPAs adhere to various principles, including:

[2] National Biomass CookStove Programme (NBCP) (pib.gov.in)

- **Principle 1:** Contribution to Climate Security & Sustainable Development - Achieved by reducing fuelwood consumption for cooking within the project boundaries.
- **Principle 2:** Safeguarding Principles - Assured through a safeguarding principle assessment.
- **Principle 3:** Stakeholder Inclusivity - by conducting stakeholder consultations at each VPA and considering feedbacks for the project.
- **Principle 4:** Demonstration of Real Outcomes - Evident through the preparation of the PDD (Project Design Document) and monitoring reports.
- **Principle 5:** Financial Additionality & Ongoing Financial Need - Met through the project's alignment with GG4GG Community Services Activity Requirements, proving additionality and fulfilling financial criteria.

Overall, the project thoroughly adheres to these guiding principles, ensuring its alignment with the Gold Standard's rigorous standards.

A.4. Target/Indicator for each of the minimum three SDGs targeted by the PoA

SDGs assessment is conducted at the VPA level. CME shall provide the information in the VPA DD and may also summarize the outcome in the Table below.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGETED	MOST RELEVANT SDG TARGET	SDG IMPACT **INDICATOR (SELECTED IN SDG TOOL)**
13 Climate Action (mandatory)	13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	13.2.2: Total greenhouse gas emissions per year
3 Good Heath and Well Being	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of the death and illnesses from hazardous chemical and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	3.9.1: Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution

5 Gender Equality	5.4: Recognize and value unpaid and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	5.4.1: Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location
7 Affordable and Clean Energy	7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	7.1.2 Proportion of population with Primary reliance on clean fuels and technology
8 Decent work and economic growth	8.3: Promote development – oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-,small- and medium sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	8.3.1: proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex.
15 Life on Land	15.2 promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management.

A.5. Coordinating/managing entity

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The Coordinating and Management Entity for this project is Outreach Projects Pvt. Ltd.

A.6. Funding sources of PoA

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The initial capital to support the manufacturing of the cookstoves is backed by Outreach Projects Pvt Ltd along with its financing partners. The entirety of the initial capital requirement is secured through private equity, with no public participation. Consequently, public funding is not implicated in this project.

The CME heavily relies on carbon financing to support the project.

SECTION B. MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND INCLUSION CRITERIA

B.1. Management System

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Projects and VPAs under the PoA will be continuously developed, adapting to the evolving landscape. These initiatives might encompass a singular model of improved stove or introduce a variety of different models of improved cookstoves. Furthermore, the distribution model will be influenced and shaped by local conditions. In certain VPAs, technologies could be made available at a subsidized rate, taking into account the specific context and in some VPA the distribution will be done at free of cost.

Throughout various project areas, the involvement of implementation partners, including both national, international and local organizations, might come into play. However, such decisions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis as projects are put into action. The PoA remains adaptable and responsive, ensuring that project design and partnerships are tailored to the unique requirements of each situation.

The management framework for this PoA involves two distinct types of entities: The Coordinating and Managing Entity (CME) and Project Partners (for distribution), which could be international or national organizations. The allocation of responsibilities between these entities is as follows:

Coordinating and Managing Entity (CME) – Outreach Projects Private Limited:

- Overseeing the manufacturing and/or procurement of cookstoves
- Conducting technical assessments for the inclusion of VPAs
- Ensuring comprehensive records and maintaining documentation
- Coordinating and providing training to Project Partners when necessary
- Maintaining oversight of overall quality control and continuously enhancing processes
- Delivering training and capacity-building programs for personnel

Project Partners (will be identified at the VPA level):

- Executing project activities at the implementation level
- Monitoring and conducting maintenance of ongoing project activities

The roles and responsibilities of personnel involved are:

CME Managing Director	a) Signing of agreements with Project Partners b) Approval of VPAs

CME Carbon Asset Manager	a) Identification of new potential VPAs b) Technical review for inclusion of VPAs c) Preparation of relevant documentation d) Records and documentation control e) Coordination of Project Partners and Training when necessary f) Overall quality control
Project Partner	a) Implementation of project activities b) Monitoring and maintenance of project activity.

VPA Inclusion Process

A Voluntary Project Activity (VPA) can be identified and put forward by various entities, including Investors, local partners, or VPA Implementers, and even by the Coordinating and Managing Entity (CME) itself. This involves the creation of the VPA Design Document (VPA-DD) and other necessary documents, aligning them with the PoA Design Document (PoA-DD). If the proposer lacks the requisite technical expertise, the CME can offer assistance by aiding in the preparation of VPA documents. This support can be extended through in-house capabilities or by engaging external consultancy services of Infinite Environment Solutions LLP. The process of proposing a VPA entails submitting the proposal to the CME Carbon Asset Manager. Subsequently, an independent and comprehensive technical review is conducted by the CME Carbon Asset Manager. This review assesses the feasibility of the VPA's design and its eligibility within the PoA framework, based on the criteria set for VPA inclusion. Once the technical review is concluded, a comprehensive report is compiled and submitted to the CME Management. The CME Management holds the authority to grant approval for the VPA's inclusion. In certain instances, the CME might recommend further rounds of technical or non-technical review to ensure the proposal's viability and alignment with the overarching goals of the PoA.

Measures for Continual Improvement of PoA Management System

To ensure the ongoing enhancement of the management system, the CME will conduct an annual management review. This review serves to assess the performance of the Gold Standard (GS) management system, pinpoint any training requirements, and evaluate competencies. As part of this process, an annual training calendar will be

formulated, encompassing all the training needs identified during the annual management review meeting.

Operational managers will collaborate to appoint proficient trainers or instructors for each training session. Subsequently, these trainers will lead the training sessions for relevant staff members. Records of these training activities, including attendance sheets and completed evaluation-cum-feedback forms, will be archived according to the CME's company policy or until the conclusion of the PoA, whichever is later.

This cyclical approach to management review and training ensures a systematic and continuous process of improvement within the framework of the PoA.

Measures to avoid double counting

A distinct stove numbering or identification system will be implemented for all Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) encompassed within each individual VPA. Within the VPA Design Document (VPA-DD), a clear statement will be included to affirm that no ICS distributed under the specific VPA will be integrated into any other standalone project activity or PoA within the scope of any carbon offset schemes.

Furthermore, the standard ICS Declaration form, will incorporate a clause necessitating a declaration from end-users stating their non-participation in any other carbon offset scheme. This declaration form will be comprehensively explained to users in their local language through verbal communication. Before the installation of the cookstove, users will physically sign the contract using a mobile app or on the paper.

By implementing these measures, the PoA seeks to ensure transparency, prevent double counting, and maintain accountability in its operational processes.

B.2. Application of methodologies

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The PoA involves the dissemination of cookstoves technologies within India. The future VPAs in this PoA may include even advanced technologies achieving better results in terms of emission reduction and efficiency.

TPDDTEC and AMS-II.G are chosen for the PoA

Reduced Emissions from Cooking and Heating: Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC) version 04.0

AMS-II.G.: Energy Efficiency Measures in Thermal Applications of Non-Renewable biomass Version 13.0

Methodological Tools

Tool1: Tool for demonstration and assessment of additionality (version 7.0.0)
Tool19: Demonstration of additionality of microscale project activities (version 10.0)
Tool21: Demonstration of additionality of small-scale project activities (version 13.1)
Tool20: Assessment of debundling for small-scale project activities (version 04.1)
Tool11: Assessment of the validity of the original/current baseline and update of the baseline at the renewal of the crediting period (version 03.0.1)
Tool 30: Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass (Version 04.0)
Tool 33: Default values for common parameters (version: 02.0)
Standard for sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities (version 09.0)

Applicability of methodologies and standardized baselines

The methodology measures below constitute the justification for the choice of the selected methodology TPDDTEC, version 04.0, by showing that each VPA meets each applicability condition of the methodology.

S. No	Methodology Requirements	Project Justification
1.	Project shall choose a technology design that has predictable performance in that it is proven to be efficient and durable under field conditions; for cookstoves, the rated thermal efficiency shall be at least 20%	In the VPAs under this PoA involves distribution of Improved cookstoves ("ICS") which have high thermal efficiency. The stove will improve the efficiency compared to the existing stove in use. Therefore, under each VPA there would saving of non-renewable biomass the cookstoves which would be distributed would have a high thermal efficiency than 20%.
2.	The technology shall have continuous useful energy output of less than 150kW per unit, where "continuous useful energy output" is defined above	The cookstoves distributed under the VPAs would deliver the thermal energy. The ICS distributed under the VPAs for the PoA would have a continuous useful energy less than 150kW.
3.	The project activity is implemented by a project developer and can include additional project participants listed in Appendix 2 of the PDD template. The individual	The VPAs under the PoA would be developed with the help of investors and other funders. The CME could also develop the project. The details of the project participant would be mentioned with the corresponding VPA DD.

	households and institutions may be represented collectively by community organizations, etc., but do not individually act as project participants.	
4.	The project developer must design incentive mechanism(s), which should be effective as fast as possible, for the elimination of inefficient baseline stoves that are replaced by the project cooking devices and describe the incentive mechanism(s) in the PDD/VPA-DD at the time of validation.	The removal and continued non-use of three stone fires and other easily constructed traditional devices (the baseline technology replaced by this project activity) is in many cases unlikely and impractical to monitor. However, education of local people on the extensive health and environmental benefits of abandoning inefficient baseline technology entirely is the mechanism to progressively change the practices habits. In each VPA the intensive mechanism for the continuous use of the project device would be mentioned.
5.	Project activities making use of solid fossil fuel in the project scenario or other improved fossil fuel cookstoves meeting certain conditions described in the footnote to Table 1 (e.g., switch from three stone fire biomass stoves to LPG stoves) may only claim emission reductions for energy efficiency improvement aspect and shall assume the same baseline and project fuel for emission reduction calculations.	The VPAs under the PoA, and the project devices distributed under this would be biomass improved cookstove device. Hence no fuel switch technology would be introduced.
6.	Project activities making use of a new solid biomass feedstock in the project situation (e.g. switch to green charcoal or renewable biomass briquettes) must comply with relevant specific requirements for biomass related project activities, as defined in the latest version of the Community Services	Not applicable as the VPAs under the PoA does not make use of a new biomass feedstock in project situation. The baseline fuel and project fuel is same in each of the VPA case.

	Activity Requirements. The specific requirements apply to both plantations established for the project activity and/or existing plantations that will supply biomass feedstock.	
7.	Adequate evidence is supplied to demonstrate that indoor air pollution (IAP) levels are not worsened compared to the baseline, and greenhouse gases emitted by the project fuel/stove combination are estimated with adequate precision Furthermore, for projects where cooking will move from outdoor to indoor or where the project technology reduces ventilation (for example, changing from a stove with chimney to improved stove with no chimney), indoor air pollution (IAP) levels shall not worsen in the project compared to the baseline, including PM 2.5 and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions. This may be demonstrated before project Design Certification or during project operation using the certification resulting from of a manufacturer's test, report of field testing of the technology's PM 2.5 and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, report of lab testing of the technology, or results of modelling of the technology's operation under field conditions. If none of these are available, reference from published literature or report by independent agencies may be used as evidence,	The fuel used in both the project and baseline scenario is the same, as such there are no additional harmful gases released in the project scenario. Distributed in households that previously used a traditional inefficient device. As such, both the volume of greenhouse gases and volume of harmful gases are reduced in the project scenario. The emission reduction calculation will be based on fuel usage measurements for cook stoves (Kitchen Performance Tests and Water Boiling Tests) compared to Baseline Field Test. In all the VPA a third party certification would be required for the CO emissions from the cookstoves and it should not worsen the current situation.

	provided it is not more than 5 years old.	

The methodology measures below constitute the justification for the choice of the selected methodology AMS-II.G., version 13.0, by showing that each VPA meets each applicability condition of the methodology.

S. No	Methodology requirement	Project Justification
1.	In the case of cookstoves, the methodology is applicable to the introduction of single pot or multi pot portable or in-situ cookstoves with rated efficiency of at least 25 per cent. Refer to the requirements indicated in "Data / Parameter table 14" which details the options for testing and certification as well as supporting documentation (e.g. certificate issued by third party or test results) that needs to be presented to the validating Designated Operational Entity (DOE).	VPAs under this PoA consist of the dissemination of high efficiency biomass fired cook stoves, which are improving the efficiency compared to the existing stove in use. The cookstove which would be disseminated would have minimum efficiency of 25%. Therefore, each VPA will save non-renewable biomass, which would otherwise be consumed by less efficient cooking appliances.
2.	The aggregate energy savings of a single project activity shall not exceed the equivalent of 60 GWh per year or 180 GWh thermal per year in fuel input.	The VPAs under this PoA will estimate the number of cookstoves to be included based on the thermal energy savings resulting from each cookstove mode. The number of cookstoves in a VPA will be capped based on this number to ensure that the resultant energy savings remain below 180 GWh (thermal). The calculation for the estimate of number of cookstoves will be provided by each VPA along with the proof of energy savings from each model in the VPA

3.	Non-renewable biomass has been used in the project region since 31 December 1989, using survey methods or referring to published literature, official reports or statistics	The State of Forest Report (FSI) in 1987, prior to 1989, explicitly stated that firewood consumption in India during 1987 was estimated at 157 million tonnes, equivalent to 235 million cubic meters. However, according to the Forest Survey of India (FSI), the production of firewood from forests was a mere 40 million cubic meters. This signifies a considerable gap of 195 million cubic meters between the demand and production of firewood. These data points unequivocally highlight the utilization of non-renewable biomass in India since December 31, 1989. This assertion is grounded in the official reports from the Government of India. In essence, the argument stands that wood resources in India are limited concerning extraction, a trend that has escalated at a much higher rate compared to the growth of forests (including wooded land) over the years. The prevalence of non-renewable biomass extraction since 1989 is a discernible reality backed by concrete evidence.
4.	For cases where the biomass is sourced from renewable sources, the project participants should use a corresponding Type I methodology.	Not Applicable
5.	The CDM-PDD or CDM-PoA-DD/CPA-DD shall explain the proposed method for distribution of project devices including the method to avoid double counting	A unique serial numbering or identification system for the ICS disseminated under the PoA will applied per VPA

	of emission reductions such as unique identifications of product and end-user locations (e.g. programme logo).	
6.	The CDM-PDD or CDM-PoA-DD/CPA-DD shall also explain how the proposed procedures prevent double counting of emission reductions, for example to avoid that project stove manufacturers, wholesale providers or others claim credit for emission reductions from the project devices.	A precise stove numbering or identification system will be implemented for all Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) encompassed within each specific VPA. Within the VPA Design Document (VPA-DD), a clear and explicit statement will be incorporated, affirming that no ICS distributed under the specific VPA will be integrated into any other standalone project activity or PoA within the scope of any carbon offset schemes. Furthermore, the default ICS declaration form with end-users will include a clause that mandates a declaration from them, explicitly stating their non-participation in any other carbon offset scheme. This declaration, crucially, will be physically signed by the user during the purchase of the ICS, facilitated through a digital format. The CME will identify the key stakeholders implicated across the entire value chain of this PoA. To avert any potential claims by other stakeholders, the CME will implement categorical declarations and/or contract agreements, signed between the CME and these other stakeholder entities. These agreements ensure the transfer of rights concerning emission reduction or other

		impact assets in favor of the CME, while safeguarding the interests of the other stakeholder. For example, in the case of the local distribution partner (VPA 1), an MoU has already been established, solidifying the transfer of rights and claims on emission reduction or other impact assets in favor of the CME. The process of identifying key stakeholders will be undertaken prior to the inclusion of each VPA. The adequacy of these measures will be assessed during the annual management review meeting, validating their effectiveness and ensuring that the PoA remains structured and transparent throughout its execution.

B.1.1. Multiple technologies/measures

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If multiple technologies are incorporated in the VPA, it would be mentioned in the VPA DD. Each VPA would consist one type of project device.

B.2. Eligibility criteria for inclusion of a VPA in the PoA

	ELIGIBILITY CRITERION	DESCRIPTION/ REQUIRED CONDITION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION/SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR INCLUSION
1	Geographical boundaries of the VPA consistent with that of the PoA	The geographical boundary within which the technologies are installed will be within the Project Boundary outlined in Section A.2	Each VPA will be uniquely defined by current administrative maps to define the project boundary **Means of Verification:** Design of VPA-DD

2	Conditions to avoid double counting of GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals, such as unique identifications of product and end user locations	Each VPA will ensure double counting of emission reductions is avoided, through the unique identification of each cookstove with an identification number.	Each cookstove installed in this PoA will be having a unique serial number ensuring that they are uniquely identifiable to this project. **Means of Verification:** Customer Database, Cookstove serial number
3	Conditions to check the start dates of VPA through documentary evidence	Each VPA will share the documentary evidence of the first distribution date of the cookstove	Each cookstove installed in VPA has signed declaration form mentioning the cookstove serial number and the date of distribution. **Means of Verification:** Signed declaration form the beneficiary.
4	Conditions to ensure compliance with the applicability of the applied methodologies, the applied standardised baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents	The VPA under this PoA has mandate to meet all the applicability conditions and baseline conditions as mentioned in the applied methodologies.	Each VPA would apply the methodology as mentioned in this PoA DD and would meet all the applicability conditions and baseline conditions as per the methodology. **Means of Verification:** Design of VPA DD

5	Conditions to ensure that VPA meet the requirements for demonstration of additionality	Each VPA will demonstrate additionality according to the criteria outlined in the PoA-DD.	The project meets the requirements of the Positive List within the community Services Activity Requirements version 1.2. The VPA will demonstrate that it is composed of isolated units meeting the following requirements: a. The users of the technology/measures are household b. Each unit of appliance result in <=600 tons of emission reductions per year **Means of verification:** Calculation for thermal energy savings and proof of specifications of the appliances
6	Condition to ensure that the real case VPA and its regular VPAs meet the applicability criteria of selected methodology of combination of methodologies	The VPA under this PoA has mandate to meet all the applicability conditions mentioned in the applied methodologies	Each VPA would apply the methodology as mentioned in this PoA DD and would meet all the applicability conditions of the methodology. **Means of Verification:** Design of VPA DD
7	Conditions to ensure that real case and its regular VPAs systematically demonstrate additionality in accordance with Principles & Requirements.	Each VPA whether regular or real case will demonstrate additionality according to the criteria outlined in the PoA-DD.	The project meets the requirements of the Positive List within the community Services Activity Requirements version 1.2. The VPA will demonstrate that it is composed of isolated units meeting the following requirements: a. The users of the technology/measures are household b. Each unit of appliance result in <=600 tons of emission reductions per year **Means of verification:** Calculation for thermal energy savings and proof of specifications of the appliances

8	Non-Diversion of ODA funds	There will be no diversion for any proposed VPAs	The declaration of non-use of ODA has been completed and submitted with the each Real Case and Regular VPAs. **Means of Verification:** Deceleration letter by CME/VPA Implementer with each Real case and regular VPA
9	Sampling	At the time of verification or during baseline establishment the random sampling shall be conducted on the basis of the age group of all the cookstoves. VPAs under the program will adhere to all the requirements of the latest standard of sampling: "sampling and Survey standard for CDM project activities and Programme of Activities" at the time of inclusion	CME will make sure that during the sampling all cookstoves from all the VPAs shall be included in the sampling. The monitoring plan of each VPA will adhere to the latest standard of Standard: "Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities" at the time of inclusion. **Means of Verification**: VPA-DD
10	SDG Outcome Assessment	VPA shall demonstrate a clear, direct contribution to the sustainable development, defined as making demonstrable, positive impacts on at least three SDGs, one of which must be SDG 13 (defined herein as Emission reductions or Removals and/or Adaptation to climate change)	VPA demonstrated the SDG contribution with explanation/evidence in the section B.6 of the VPA-DD

11	Carbon Transfer	It will be clearly communicated that Outreach Projects Pvt. Ltd. is the entity that is claiming the emission reductions resulting from the project activity.	At the point of technology installation, a Declaration will be agreed upon by the user stating that the rights to the carbon credits will be the sole property of Outreach Projects and they relinquish their right on emission reductions achieved by the cookstove. **Means of Verification:** Declaration Form/User Agreement
12	Safeguarding Principle Assessment	Each VPA will describe the implementation plan for ensuring safety of operational team/staff and the households.	VPA implementer will provide a detailed plan on training and evaluation measures for the safety of the operating staff and the households. **Means of Verification:** Any of the following: Project area Proposal, Training Calendar, Trainings/Workshops for stove users covering safety aspects, survey/audit plans
13	Retroactive Crediting Period	VPAs claiming retroactive crediting period must submit the required documents for Gold Standard Preliminary Review (time of first submission) within one year from the VPA start date.	VPAs claiming retroactive crediting period must submit the required documents for Gold Standard Preliminary Review (time of first submission) within one year from the VPA start date.
14	Grievance Mechanisms	All VPAs shall have the methodology of addressing grievances of the stakeholders as indicated in section F.3 of PoA DD	All VPAs shall include the methodology of grievance mechanism. **Means of Verification:** VPA DD

SECTION C. DEMONSTRATION OF ADDITIONALITY

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Additionality at PoA Level

VPAs within this PoA will focus on distributing energy-efficient cook stoves to households previously reliant on non-renewable biomass, such as wood or charcoal, for cooking. The implementation of these energy-efficient technologies will result in reduced carbon emissions, as families can cook the same amount of food while using less non-renewable biomass.

In rural areas and impoverished urban clusters, traditional biomass remains the predominant energy source for cooking. Approximately two-thirds of households rely on solid cooking fuels like firewood, crop residue, cow dung cake, and coal/lignite/charcoal[3]. This reliance has significant health implications, with 1.24 million deaths in India in 2017, equivalent to 12.5% of total deaths, being attributed to air pollution[4].

Notably, there is currently no legislation or policy in place mandating the adoption of fuel-efficient stoves in India. This underscores that the PoA operates as a voluntary initiative.

The persistence of traditional 3-stone chulhas or inefficient wood/charcoal stoves stems from factors including the ease of accessing wood through illegal logging, a lack of awareness about the fuel wastage and detrimental effects of low-efficiency stoves, and the capital cost associated with efficient technologies. The CME is actively addressing the latter two issues by fostering awareness about the benefits of efficient cooking technologies and collaborating with other local, national and international organizations working in same sectors. However, these efforts alone cannot guarantee a seamless shift from energy-intensive to low-carbon cooking. The financial constraints faced by poor rural households, lacking a steady income source, hinder their ability to purchase any new device.

[3] Sustained uptake of clean cooking practices in poor communities: Role of social networks - ScienceDirect
[4] The impact of air pollution on deaths, disease burden, and life expectancy across the states of India: the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 - PubMed (nih.gov)

Hence, it was imperative for the CME to seek Gold Standard registration to partly finance the acquisition cost of the technology for consumers through carbon financing. To enable this, the CME has already entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the partner financing agency to allocate a portion of the carbon revenue as a subsidy for sold cookstoves. Without such subsidies, along with awareness campaigns and operational support/capacity-building initiatives organized by the CME, the common practice of using traditional, inefficient cookstoves would have persisted in these regions.

Therefore, in the absence of this PoA, the ongoing use of traditional, low-efficiency cookstoves would have persisted without interruption. The realization of any of the planned VPAs within this PoA would have been unfeasible without the critical support of carbon financing.

Additionality at VPA Level

The Improved Cook Stoves provided under this PoA will adhere to the guidelines outlined in Community Services Activity Requirements V1.2, specifically Appendix B, paragraph 1.1.3. This paragraph stipulates that project activities must solely comprise separate units where the beneficiaries of the technology/measure are households, communities, or institutions. Additionally, each unit should result in annual energy savings of no more than 600 MWh or emission reductions of no more than 600 tonnes per year.

This PoA inherently meets the auto-additionality criteria specified above. The improved cookstove in question boasts a peak power rating of 1.5 kW and an appliance efficiency reaching up to 37.31%. With a conservative estimate of 6 hours of daily operation, the annual power consumption amounts to 3285 kWh (thermal). Assuming a baseline appliance efficiency of 15%, the projected annual energy savings for each cookstove stand at approximately 9.198 MWh (thermal). This value significantly falls below the annual energy savings threshold of 600 MWh per cookstove unit.

In light of this, meticulous attention will be given to ensuring that every VPA incorporated within the PoA aligns with and fulfills this additionality requirement. This approach guarantees the PoA's compliance with the specified guidelines and reaffirms its commitment to contributing meaningfully to energy efficiency and emission reduction goals.

SECTION D. DURATION OF PoA

D.1. Date of first submission of PoA to Gold Standard

>> 16/05/2023

D.2. Duration of the PoA

>>

20 Years

SECTION E. OUTCOME OF PoA LEVEL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

E.1. Summary of stakeholder consultation at PoA Level

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The Outreach Projects Private Limited project to distribute improved cookstoves in India as a PoA and is eligible for the REDUCED EMISSIONS FROM COOKING AND HEATING: Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC) – Version 4.0 methodology and AMS II G. Initial distribution of 12,800 cookstoves have been already started in Madhya Pradesh and Assam state of India under VPA-1.

The use of traditional cookstoves in rural India poses significant health and environmental risks that can be avoided by providing access to modern fuel-efficient cookstoves. By distributing these cookstoves, the project aims to provide communities with various benefits, including reduced poverty, improved health, increased productivity, and mitigated climate change.

Besides mitigating climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, this project will deliver numerous local benefits to communities, including:

1. Diminished deforestation and degradation of surrounding forests due to decreased wood consumption for cooking purposes.
2. Minimized soil erosion and nutrient loss since trees serve as natural protectors of the land.
3. Mitigated risk of flooding in hilly areas through the water-absorbing capabilities of trees and plants on slopes.
4. Alleviated poverty by lowering annual expenses on cooking fuels through the adoption of efficient wood stoves.

5. Improved public health by reducing the adverse effects associated with smoke inhalation caused by traditional cooking methods.
6. Saved cooking and wood collection time, providing individuals with more opportunities to engage in essential household tasks and/or supervise children.

Representative of 'Outreach Projects 'communicated in local language to the household about the project activity. In order to make sure that the relevant stakeholders are informed about the project, the proponent sent out door to door, telephonic invites and public notices to the respective stakeholders. This campaign started 30 days prior to actual meeting. For those who were unable to attend the physical local stakeholder consultation meeting, an online link for joining was arranged.

The stakeholders were provided with detailed information regarding the benefits of adopting improved cookstoves (ICS) compared to traditional cooking methods. These advantages encompassed time saved in cooking and gathering fuelwood, decreased household labor, prevention of soot buildup on cooking utensils, and wall of the kitchen and increased convenience associated with the use of portable cookstoves. By embracing these ICS, users were able to enjoy improved health and reduced expenses. In order to regulate the ownership and transfer of carbon rights, a specific agreement was established between the Carbon Mechanism Entity (CME) and each beneficiary. The stakeholders were apprised of this information during the consultation meeting

E.2. Consideration of stakeholder comments received

>> To be updated during the stakeholder feedback round

E.3. Final Continuous Input / Grievance Mechanism at PoA Level

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METHOD	INCLUDE ALL DETAILS OF CHOSEN METHOD (S) SO THAT THEY MAY BE UNDERSTOOD AND, WHERE RELEVANT, USED BY READERS.

	Continuous input and grievance expression can be directly communicated to the proponent's office in-person.
Continuous Input / Grievance Expression Process Book (mandatory)	Outreach Projects Pvt. Ltd, 214-215, Milinda Manor, 2 RNT Marg, Indore, Madhya Pradesh (Pin: 452001) This method is chosen to encompass the stakeholders who wish to physically post their comments/grievances are not acquainted to other means of communication, largely the category A stakeholders.
GS Contact (mandatory)	help@goldstandard.org
Other	Mr. Deepak Kumar Jain can be contacted via the following number: 0731-4050174 Complaints could also be sent to deepak@infisloutions.org anand@infisolutions.org or on company id business@infisloutions.org

APPENDIX 1 - CONTACT INFORMATION OF COORDINATING/MANAGING ENTITY AND RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)/ ENTITY(IES)

CME and/or responsible person/ entity	☒ CME ☐ Responsible person/ entity for application of the selected methodology(ies) and, where applicable, the selected standardized baseline(s) to the PoA
Organization	Outreach Projects Private Limited
Street/P.O. Box	214-215, Milinda Manor,
Building	2 RNT Marg
City	Indore
State/Region	Madhya Pradesh
Postcode	452001
Country	India
Telephone	0731-4050174
E-mail	business@infisolutions.org
Website	www.infisolutions.org
Contact person	Deepak Kumar Jain
Title	Director
Salutation	Mr.
Last name	Jain
Middle name	Kumar

APPENDIX 2 - DESIGN CHANGES

A2.1. Details of proposed or actual design change

>> Provide the description of the proposed design change

NA

A2.2. Describe the Impacts of design change on the following

a. Additionality

>> NA

b. Applicability of methodology and other methodological regulatory documents with which the project activity has been certified

>> NA

c. Compliance with the monitoring plan of the applied methodology

>>NA

d. Level of accuracy and completeness in the monitoring of the project activity compared with the requirements contained in the registered monitoring plan

>>

NA

e. Scale of the project activity

>>

Na

f. Stakeholder consultation

>>

NA

g. Sustainable development criteria

>>

NA

h. Safeguarding assessment

>>

NA

i. Compliance with applicable legislation

>> NA

Revision History

Version	Date	Remarks
2.2	14 April 2023	Integrated the design change memo as annex of the document. Editorial changes
2.1	31 May 2022	Editorial changes and revisions
2.0	04 May 2022	Key Project Information table revised to cater for the following information: - Scale of PoA - Title and GS ID of all real case VPAs included in the PoA A new Management System section included Safeguarding Principles Assessment section removed Outcome of PoA Level Stakeholder Consultation section revised in the following manner: - Justification for Stakeholder Consultation at PoA Level Only section removed A new Consideration of Stakeholder Comments Received section added
1.1	14 October 2020	Hyperlinked section summary to enable quick access to key sections Improved clarity on Key Project Information Inclusion criteria table added Clarification on POA level LSC and Safeguard Principles Assessment Improved Clarity on SDG contribution/SDG Impact term used throughout Clarity on Stakeholder Consultation information required Provision of an accompanying Guide to help the user understand detailed rules and requirements
1.0	10 July 2017	Initial adoption