



National Stakeholders Forum on Rural Industrialization and Development through Renewable Energy Technologies, Abuja, 14 & 15 November 2002 (The Forum was organized in collaboration with and financial contributions from the Energy Commission of Nigeria and six Federal Ministries (Agriculture and Rural Development, Power and Steel, Water Resources, Industry, Environment and Science & Technology).

The Forum adopted following recommendations:

1. The Forum recommends that an energy policy which emphasis the development of renewable energy resources and technologies should immediately be put in place.
2. Since the lack of access to affordable, clean and convenient energy is inextricably linked to poverty, it is recommended that a resource survey and assessment be carried out to determine the total renewable energy potential in the country as well as identify local conditions and local priorities in various ecological zones.
3. The development of renewable energy services is linked to many other sectors such as agriculture, small scale industrial enterprises and poverty alleviation, it is recommended that, renewable energy related projects have a greater likelihood of success if implemented in tandem with activities in these sectors to ensure sufficient demand for the energy services providers.
4. Recognizing that current flow of information on renewable energy technologies is inadequate, it is recommended that demonstration projects on various energy forms be established widely so that the performance and efficiency with which services are delivered can be sensitised.
5. In order to ensure an orderly development of renewable energy technologies and to assure quality of products, it is also recommended that a testing and standards laboratory for RETs similar to the one in South Africa be established in Nigeria.
6. As renewable energy technologies are increasingly used to address energy shortages and to expand the range of services in both rural and urban areas, it is recommended that Nigeria take advantage of global partnerships such as the REEEP initiative of UK, to help the country for creative integration of renewable energy systems.
7. As RET applications in the developing countries are attracting increased interest and financial support from the donor community, it is recommended that the Government of Nigeria develop agreements, guarantees and financial instruments that specifically target RETs and stimulate market to attract investments. In this regard, development of market supporting framework will remain the primary conditions for the country's ability to attract foreign capital.
8. In view of the vital importance of RETs to kick start rural industrialization and the need for harnessing and channelling multilateral and bilateral funds to that purpose, it is recommended that a renewable energy funding/financing agency like India's IREDA (Indian Renewable Energy Agency) be established.
9. The Forum also felt that activities such as entrepreneurship and managerial skills development training programmes and technical courses in RETs with a view of developing Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) providing services to rural areas be introduced.

10. The Forum identified definite need for capacity building both at institutional and personnel level for acquiring technical, organizational, and managerial skills required for increased development of renewable energy. The existing Research and Development centres and technology development institutions should be adequately strengthened to support the shift towards increased renewable energy utilization. Human resource development, critical knowledge and know-how transfer should be in focus for projects development, project management, monitoring and evaluation. Preparation of standards and codes of practices, maintenance manuals, life cycle costing and cost- benefit analyses tools to be undertaken on urgent priority.
11. The experience from successful renewable energy promotion projects especially from other developing countries have highlighted the need for participatory approach during project formulation and implementation exercises and public awareness creation programmes aiming at end users, financiers, decision makers, local governments, traders and regulators.
12. The Forum urged the concerned agencies to help commercialise proven indigenous renewable energy technologies and promote local production of RE equipments, devices and components through investment promotion strategies and fiscal incentives.
13. The role of renewable energy in rural industrialization and development by providing access to clean and affordable energy for village industries especially agro-processing industries and introduction of photovoltaic based information-communication technologies (ICTs) for improving the quality of life of the rural poor was emphasized by the forum and called upon UNIDO to take enabling steps towards this direction.
14. Forum requested the Federal Government of Nigeria and the State Governments to consider introducing renewable energy and energy conservation as subject of study in various levels of education beginning with primary school level.
15. National level programmes for immediate introduction of proven technologies such as small hydropower, biomass, solar thermal and photovoltaic may be devised and implemented. In this regard, the Forum urged UNIDO to provide necessary technical assistance and support.
16. Forum recommended the compulsory introduction of solar water heater in hotels, hospitals, hostels and public buildings.
17. Concerned agencies were requested to initiate master plans for the development of renewable energy applications in their respective jurisdiction taking lessons from successful models implemented elsewhere.
18. The Forum recommended holding a National Round Table – comprising of private, public sector, and civil society representatives as a follow-up to WSSD. This group should also form two sub-committees one on renewable energy and another on non-renewable energy.

More info: kandeh.yumkella@undp.org or jossy.thomas@undp.org