

## India's Biodiesel Programme: A Pathway for Sustainable Entrepreneurship, Employment Generation and Inclusiveness

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*This paper seeks to address whether India's biodiesel programme would create sustainable entrepreneurship opportunities in the long run, whether it is inclusive in nature and what would be its impact in terms of employment generation. Using the available primary and secondary evidences it is estimated that a 20 per cent biofuel blending through domestic feedstock production would create up to 14.45 million sustainable entrepreneurs, primarily micro and small entrepreneurs, and 331.17 million man-days, mostly for unskilled or semi-skilled people, per year by 2025. The two most important factors that restrain the success of the programme are uncertainties in yield and fluctuating seed prices for the farmers as the latter is linked to global crude prices. It suggests fixing minimum support prices for seeds and stabilising yield at a higher level through R&D, particularly with the Government initiatives.*

### I Introduction

The available literature on biofuel shows that, apart from the intended benefit of reducing GHG emission, its production would create substantial opportunities for employment generation and entrepreneurship development which have significant economic and social implications depending on the country concerned and the sections of people involved (Choi, *et. al.* 2008, Chadwin, *et. al.* 1995, Hall, *et. al.* 2010, Hockerts 2010). However, in a developing economy like India, the socio-economic implications of the growth of the biodiesel sector depends on, among others, the type of feedstock produced, type of land used to grow feedstock, scale of operation and technology used in processing. For instance, growing jatropha curcas in degraded or peripheral-forest land by tribal people in Chhattisgarh and in wasteland by landless labourers in Chhattisgarh and Gujarat has empowered them not only through increased income and employment opportunities, but also through conferring land rights on them (Counterview 2017, The Wire 2017). In

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