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SUCCESS STORY

USAID Helps India Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

From 1996-2010, USAID helped India save almost 78.2 million tons of coal, valued at \$1.5 billion.

India is the world's third largest producer of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with the power sector the largest single contributor. Indian power stations, characterized by aged equipment, inefficient technologies, poor maintenance practices, and low quality coal are some of the highest GHG emitters in the world. Policies and programs facilitating innovation and large-scale adoption and deployment of low-carbon technologies, in addition to those targeted directly at reducing GHG emissions, will need to play a central role in global efforts to address climate change.



USAID and the Government of India launched the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Prevention (GEP) program in 1996 to reduce GHG emissions generated from coal-based power plants and to encourage the use of biomass fuel in the sugarcane industry. The program, which ended in September 2011, was implemented by the National Energy Technology Laboratory at the United States Department of Energy in collaboration with NTPC Limited of India, the leading power producer in the country.

GEP significantly strengthened the organizational capacity of NTPC Limited, India's leading power producer, by establishing a culture of efficiency in plant operations and among top managers. Photo: NTPC Ltd./ Government of India

The GEP program resulted in the reduction of 92.7 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions through efficient coal conservation and 6.4 million tons through the use of bagasse, a byproduct of sugarcane production that can be used to generate heat and power. The program achieved a per-ton reduction of carbon dioxide at a cost of only 43 cents; less than one eighth of the cost of carbon credits purchased by the World Bank's Carbon Finance Program. From 1996-2010, GEP also realized savings of almost 78.2 million tons of coal, valued at \$1.5 billion.

In addition, GEP significantly strengthened the organizational capacity of NTPC, by establishing a culture of efficiency in plant operations and among top managers.