

Biogas Micro-Digester as a Rural Development Program under CDM: How to Utilize Programmatic CDM to Enhance Low-Carbon Development Policy

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Programmatic CDM is a new channel to promote small/tiny but disperse activities by adding carbon credits if such activities reduce greenhouse (GHG) emissions. Especially the scheme may open the door for activities in low-income people who face difficulties to access to the benefits of CDM.

Biogas micro-digester is a technology to install household-wise tiny biogas digester mainly utilizing cattle manure and replaces coal (briquette) and/or (non-renewable) biomass. Farmers enjoy convenient, pollution-free and cost/burden-free gas as well as good-quality fertilizers. The technology is well known in Asia with institutional arrangements in some countries such as China.

The basic idea is that the carbon credits (typically CERs) may foster such activities for rural development because they reduce CO² emissions (typically 5 t CO²/yr equivalent to 60 Euro/yr). A business model is presented as a private-sector practice to implement this practice for low-income farmers in Chongqing, China as a CDM PoA (Programme of Activities) developed by PEAR Carbon Offset Initiative.

Another idea is to advance such (local) governmental policy program by using the carbon credit generation scheme CDM, if the program can reduce GHG emissions. For this purpose, the (local) government must design the program as an 'additional' part of the existing program to generate 'additional' reductions as well as to assign some public or private entity to be a coordinator of the PoA. The coordinator is to coordinate and manage the activities under the CDM PoA including the share of the profits.

The monitoring of GHG, an essential part of CDM, can be used to monitor the status of the activities as well as to adjust them for better performance. Integration of CDM into the existing program (which may face some barrier) is a new tool for successful implementation of the development policy.



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