

THEMATIC SESSION ON RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY
3RD MAY 2006 TIME 10.00A.M-1.00P.M

STATEMENT:

Renewables provide energy for public services. Technology influences the lives of millions of women both in the north and south. Millions of households, particularly women in developing countries rely on conventional biomass combustion technology. When it comes to modern technology development we often narrow it down focussing on commercial uses or commercialisation of energy supply. This applies to biomass when it is used for electricity generation. When it goes to national grids it becomes unaffordable for the poor. There is a tendency to neglect the needs of dominant users of biomass that is women and the need for providing modern technology to meet the public energy needs; food and nutritional security. The need for promoting affordable technology to meet the needs of the poor and women get isolated in the paradigm of energy and technology.

The challenge in front of us is the socialisation of technology to meet the technological needs of the poor and also the multiple needs of improving technology for generating clean energy for cooking, processing food and enterprise development. These are not only the energy needs but also include needs for modern technology to improve the quality of life of the end users, their health, eradicate their poverty, enhance biomass production and environmental quality, increase income and the drudgery of securing energy for common needs.

In increasing the share of Renewables particularly the modern biomass energy that takes place in many developing countries it is extremely important to base on ground realities which includes biomass production systems and the social context with a holistic approach making it opportunistic for those who are in need of affordable, modern and clean energy.

The technology responsive to the unmet energy needs of women and the poor is a way to make a progressive change in the world.