
ENERGY: SELECT ASSIGNMENTS

The **Socio-economic Baseline Study for Haryana Power Sector Reform** for DFID India involved detailed analysis of socio-economic issues facing the power sector in the State, and established a baseline for future impact assessments, on the basis of a survey covering more than 3,300 rural and urban households, agriculture, industrial and commercial consumers, across the State. An appraisal of the institutional and policy issues was also undertaken. A similar **Socio-economic Baseline Study for Andhra Pradesh (AP) Power Sector Reform** covered about 3,500 rural and urban households, agricultural, industrial and commercial consumers and established the baseline indicators for consumption, service quality and views on proposed reform initiatives. Notably, the Baseline Study in AP informed the Social Policy for AP Power Sector Reform.

The **Impact Assessment of Pilot Investments under Haryana Power Sector Reform** was conducted against the parameters of the earlier Socio-economic Baseline Study for Haryana Power Sector Reform and examined the results of the pilot investments made by Government of Haryana (GoH) and the World Bank by specifically examining changes in consumers' perceptions of the quality of supply, standards of commercial services, utility-response systems, and consumers' knowledge, perceptions and attitudes towards power sector reform, after these investments. This is one of the rare longitudinal studies of power sector reform in India from the consumer perspective. TARU undertook a similar study later in AP- the **Socio-economic Impact Assessment for the AP Power Sector Reform** for DFID India. Covering about 3,500 rural and urban households, agricultural, industrial and commercial consumers in a State-wide survey, and complementing this with more than 20 stakeholder consultations across the State, the Impact Assessment in Andhra Pradesh examined consumption pattern changes and views on the various reform initiatives. The analysis was undertaken on an Agro-climatic Energy (ACE) Zone basis for focused identification of challenges.

TARU, together with IPA Energy, UK, provided **Reform Management Support to the Department of Energy, Government of Madhya Pradesh (GoMP)**. We specifically worked on:

- Developing the **Implementation Plan for Reforming Agricultural Power Supply**; this involved: (a) an assessment of the feasibility of Quality Contracts between agricultural consumers and the utility- an effort to establish price-quality linkages that will incentivize both the utility and the consumer; (b) plans for re-allocation of agricultural subsidy- involving generation and evaluation of institutional options for a new agency to handle agricultural power subsidies and preparing a road-map for operationalizing the finally agreed option; and, (c) research on rural theft with a view to understanding its motivations, arrangements, potential mitigation measures and challenges in implementing them. Much of this work is unprecedented in India and could pave the way for addressing the crucial challenge of agricultural power subsidies in power sector reform in the country.

- **Pilot Definition Studies for Selected 11 KV Distribution Networks in MP;** this involved mapping the distribution network and real-time energy measurements at identified nodes to enable a GIS-based analysis that identified the quantum of losses in different segments of the distribution network and examining the causative factors of such losses to delineate possible options for loss-reduction and supply-side improvements. The output formed the basis for designing pilot projects where a range of supply and demand side interventions, together with local management arrangements, were planned to assess the potential for State-wide changes.
- **Strategic Communication Input;** this involved State-wide consultations with a range of stakeholder groups, identification of their position and concerns vis-à-vis reform, development of key messages, inputs to institutionalisation of communication processes within the utility and monitoring of communication efforts undertaken as part of the reforms programme. Case studies examining **Approaches, Tools and Methods for Internal Communication in Power Sector Reforms in AP, Haryana, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh (UP)** assessed the impact of various communication approaches in addressing reform-related concerns and promoting acceptance of reforms among staff, with a view to learning lessons for MP.

TARU served as the **Secretariat to the Government of AP (GoAP) constituted Task Force on Agriculture** mandated with evolving **Alternate Mechanisms for Agricultural Power Subsidy Administration and Delivery**. Methods to promote efficient electricity use by agricultural consumers, including organisational forms, were investigated and piloted and an electrical network analysis was undertaken in select locations to examine the quantum of losses and advise on possible loss-reduction and supply quality improvement options. These were supported with analysis of data on crops and irrigation requirements and examination of linkages with financial and agriculture extension institutions to suggest a more consumer-focused, accountable interface mechanism in the supply of power to agricultural consumers.

The **Development of the Internal Communication Strategy for Power Sector Reform in Punjab** involved investigation into employees' issues and concerns at various levels and cadres through a series of consultations across the State and an employee survey covering over 4,000 employees. The Internal Communication Strategy was prepared based on the feedback thus obtained. This was one of the few instances in India where the Internal Communication Strategy for reform in a core infrastructure sector was informed by a large, systematic survey.