



GEC National Dialogues

- a Global Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Process on the Green Economy

TARAgam YATRA – 2010

Towards Green Economies

Scalable solutions for people and our planet

India

PEP-16 Meeting, Vienna

16th – 18th Feb' 2011



Development Alternatives

India Dialogue TARAGram YATRA – 2010, India



Focus 2010

Towards Green Economies

– scalable solutions for people and our planet

India Dialogue

TARAGram YATRA – 2010, India

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The TARAGram Yatra dialogue promises to be a milestone in a series of global multi-stakeholder consultation processes leading up to Rio+20.

The Yatra :

- aimed to build consensus amongst key stakeholders on prioritised and sequenced issues in the transition to sustainability.
- to communicate strategies and solutions that address sustainability challenges to policy audiences on national and global platform.

Yatra means a journey or pilgrimage that one takes with friends and colleagues to attain higher goals



Structure

TARAgam YATRA 2010 took place at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi and at the DA Group Resource Centre at TARAgam, Bundelkhand in Central India over five days, consisting of:

- Inaugural session in New Delhi - half day
- Working sessions at TARAgam and field visits - three days
- Plenary and Valedictory sessions in New Delhi - one day

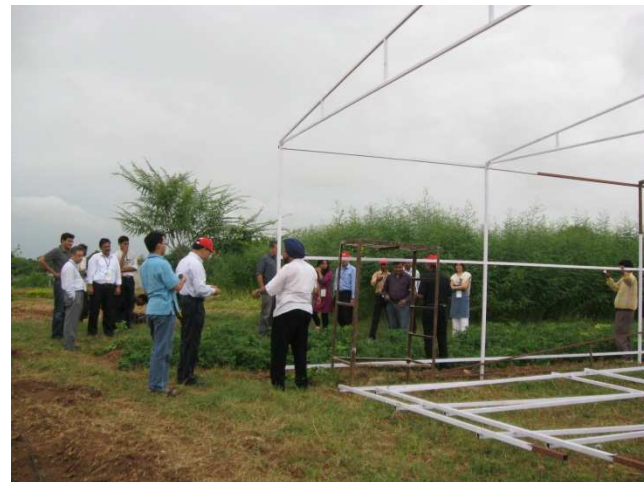
The sessions at TARAgam concentrated on “**Field visits, discussion and design**” of path breaking approaches; those at New Delhi focused more on wider “**consultation and communication**” with a national and global audience.



Participants

The Yatra included participants from national, state and local governments, businesses and financial institutions, academic and research organisations, civil society and international agencies.

The broad mix of interests and expertise was designed to encourage generation of new ideas and innovative solutions, and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience.



Partners and Sponsors

- Green Economy Coalition (GEC)
- the Ring Alliance of Policy Research Organisations
- the International Institute for Environment and Development
- the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML)
- the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India
- the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India
- The Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India
- TATA Steel - A TATA group enterprise
- ACC
- UNEP – GRID Arendal



TARAgam YATRA Declaration

Declaration was aimed to draw attention of policy makers and key stakeholders to consider that:

- Growing awareness of climate change has brought the concepts of “low carbon” and “climate resilient” growth into focus
- There is an unique opportunity to re-orient the economic compass to initiate change at scale
- Concerns over sustainability remain a long way over from being integrated fully into policy making that is closely linked with ethics



TARAgam YATRA Declaration

Declaration further:

- Enumerated factors that can contribute to green growth
- Called for action by policy makers
- Pledged our commitment to share and induce transformative processes aimed at green growth



Release of declaration by the Mr. Digvijay Singh, AICC, General Secretary and Dr. Ashok Khosla, Chairman Development Alternatives

TARAGram YATRA

Outcome and lessons learnt

Green Economy

Working definition emerged as:

“A Green Economy is a system that creates sustainable livelihoods by reducing our carbon footprint, strengthens social capital and produces green products and services, thus creating green decent employment opportunities (green jobs) to lift millions out of poverty while simultaneously regenerating the environment”



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Outcome and lessons learnt

Rationale for shifting towards green economy:

- The recent global economic crisis: an eye-opener
- Persistent poverty and ecological degradation
- Increasing risk to livelihood associated with climate variability (e.g. crop failure)

Factors locking the country/region into its current paradigm:

- Policy - practice disconnect
- Behavioral aspects; lack of awareness and education
- High dependence on natural resources - particularly in rural India context



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Outcome and lessons learnt

Foundation for shifting to a green economy:

- Multi-stake holder consultative/interactive approach in policy formulation
- Building business models that can operate and invest at a large scale with appropriate pro-poor technology, natural resources conservation, renewable energy and clean transport
- Ensuring waste reduction, through – resource efficiency with community participation in resource (e.g. water) management and administration, strengthening regulations, treating ‘waste’ as useful raw-materials (e.g. fly ash-brick)
- Human capital: preparing a trained labour force that can take up jobs in the green economy, creation of green jobs – sustainable livelihoods
- Sensitising the youth, changing their lifestyle/employment aspirations and making them more environment sensitive
- Enabling environment for green investments and market access



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Outcome and lessons learnt

Opportunities/way forward to act:

- Greening of the existing 'brown' economy/jobs/value chains
- Building up base for "low carbon" and "carbon resilient" communities and their capacity building
- Tapping green social investment in the areas of ecosystem services, sustainable agriculture, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), green construction, and urban infrastructure, etc.
- Introduction of financial products for incubation of green enterprise and business models
- Sharing of learning's and good practices for replication at scale into various economies
- Capacity building of stakeholders



TARAgam YATRA continues . . .



**Towards Green Economies
for scalable solutions for people and our planet**

November 2011 let's again join the Yatra