Energy Department
Government of Odisha

GRIDCO
Empowering Odisha

VASUDHA FOUNDATION
Green ways for a good earth!

Scaling Agri PV in Odisha for Climate-Resilient Growth

June 6, 2026
9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Mayfair Convention
Bhubaneswar

Background Note

India's renewable energy transition has accelerated rapidly over the last decade, with solar photovoltaics (PV) driving most new capacity additions and helping the country achieve over 50% installed power capacity from non-fossil sources ahead of schedule by 2030, as highlighted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Press Information Bureau (PIB), Government of India. However, the rapid expansion of ground-mounted solar projects has also raised important concerns around land availability. Ground-mounted solar projects are land-intensive and often compete with agricultural land and natural ecosystems, as discussed in recent renewable energy sector analysis by Mercom India Research. These challenges underline the need for integrated renewable energy approaches that enable efficient land use while supporting ecological sustainability and rural livelihoods.

In this context, Agri-photovoltaics (Agri PV) has emerged as a promising dual-use solution that enables simultaneous food and energy production on the same parcel of land. By installing elevated solar panels above agricultural fields, Agri PV allows farming activities to continue beneath the solar array while generating clean energy. Beyond optimizing land use, Agri PV systems can generate several co-benefits, including reduced water evaporation, improved soil moisture retention, and the creation of moderated microclimatic conditions that can help reduce crop stress during periods of extreme heat, as highlighted in the Horticulturae journal study titled *"Agrivoltaics as a Sustainable Strategy to Enhance Food Security Under Water Scarcity."* Emerging evidence from Indian pilot projects also suggests that Agri PV can stabilize yields under climate stress, diversify farmer incomes, and strengthen the long-term resilience of farming systems, as noted in the report *"Feasibility of Agri-Photovoltaics in Indian Agriculture"* prepared by GIZ and Auroville Consulting.

Odisha presents a strong case for scaling Agri PV due to its agrarian economy, large population of small and marginal farmers, and significant areas of seasonal fallow land. At the same time, the state is positioning itself as a clean energy hub in eastern India through expanding renewable energy initiatives led by institutions such as GRIDCO Limited. Climate challenges including heat stress, erratic rainfall, cyclones, and water scarcity are increasingly affecting agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods, making integrated land-use and climate-resilient energy solutions more important than ever, as highlighted in the study *"Impact of Climate Change on Food Security"* published in Sustainable Futures journal. Agri PV offers an opportunity to align renewable energy goals with agricultural resilience, watershed management, irrigation security, and rural income enhancement through innovative and sustainable planning approaches.

To advance this vision, Vasudha Foundation, in collaboration with GRIDCO Limited, is convening a stakeholder dialogue alongside the launch of an Agri PV Decision Support Framework for Policy and Planning. The dialogue will examine pathways for scaling Agri PV in Odisha through three thematic panel discussions focused on climate resilience and rural transformation, Odisha-specific implementation opportunities and institutional pathways, and practical lessons from farmers and early deployments. Together, these discussions aim to strengthen evidence-based policy development for inclusive and climate-resilient Agri PV expansion in Odisha and beyond.

AGENDA

Flow of the Event	Duration
Registration & Networking Tea	**9:30 AM - 9:59 AM**
Lighting of the Lamp **Plenary Session** ▪ ***Welcome & Opening Remarks*** *by* **Dr. Satya Priya Rath**, **IAS**, *Managing Director, GRIDCO Limited, Government of Odisha* ▪ ***Context Setting*** *by* **Mr. Srinivas Krishnaswamy**, *Chief Executive Officer, Vasudha Foundation* ▪ ***Address*** *by* **Mr. Indranil Goswami,** *Partner and Lead, Clean Energy, Energiva Ventures* ▪ ***Special Address*** *by* **Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Sarma, IAS**, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. ▪ ***Special Address*** *by* **Shri Vishal Kumar Dev, IAS**, *Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Odisha* **Energising Odisha: Launch Announcements** ▪ Agreement signing on BESS ▪ Launch of 'Empowering Farmers through AgriPV' report ▪ Launch of OSEAP application ▪ Inauguration of 2 nos. 150 mtr. Wind Resource Assessment (WRA) Masts ***Keynote Address*** by **Shri. Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo**, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Odisha ***Vote of Thanks*** by **Dr. Satya Priya Rath**, **IAS**, *Managing Director, GRIDCO Limited, Government of Odisha*	**9:59 AM – 10:40 AM**
Tea Break	**10:40 AM to 10:50 AM**
Setting the Context **Shri Mahesh Prasad Dash**, *Chief Project Manager, GRIDCO Limited*	**10:50 AM to 11:00 AM**
Panel Discussion I **Agri PV for Resilience, Adaptation and Rural Transformation** ***Session will explore:*** ▪ Agri PV as adaptive farm infrastructure for climate-resilient agriculture ▪ Evaluating impacts on crop productivity, farmer income stability, and livelihood diversification ▪ Community-led models and role of farmer collectives and civil society. ▪ Uses of Agro-PV in creating supporting ecosystems (e.g. Cold-chains, solar fencing, water pumping, etc.) ***Moderated by:*** **Mr. Srinivas Krishnaswamy,** Chief Executive Officer, Vasudha Foundation	**11:00 AM to 11:50 AM** *(last 5 minutes for open- house discussion with the audience)*

Flow of the Event	Duration
Panelists: ▪ **Sh. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, IAS,** *Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue and Disaster, Government of Odisha* ▪ **Dr. N. H. Ravindranath,** *Professor (Retired), Centre for Sustainable Technologies, Indian Institute of Science* ▪ **Dr. Aviraj Datta,** *Scientist – Wastewater Management, ICRISAT* ▪ **Mr. Anand Jain,** *Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Adarsh Jeevan Solar Farm, Jeevan Herbs and Agro Farms*	
Panel Discussion II **Agri PV in Odisha – Context, Challenges and Pathways to Scale** ***Moderated by*: Mr. Srinivas Krishnaswamy**, *Chief Executive Officer, Vasudha Foundation* ***Session will explore*:** ▪ Agri PV pathways suited to Odisha's agricultural systems, agro-climatic conditions and land-use contexts ▪ Institutional and policy enablers needed to integrate Agri PV within agriculture, irrigation, watershed and rural development priorities ▪ Approaches to farmer participation, land use, and implementation models ▪ Opportunities for convergence across departments, research institutions and public programmes to support Agri PV deployment ▪ Priority pathways for advancing Agri PV in Odisha through pilots, evidence-building and coordinated action **Panelists:** ▪ **Sh. Subrat Kumar Panda, IAS**, *Director of Soil Conservation and Water Shed Development, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha* ▪ **Prof. Pravat Kumar Roul**, *Vice Chancellor, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology* ▪ **Sh. Gajanan S. Kale**, *Chief Executive Officer, TPCODL & Chief Odisha Distribution Business* ▪ **Ms. Mandvi Singh**, *Programme Director, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology*	**11:50 AM – 12:40 PM** *(last 5 minutes for open- house discussion with the audience)*

AGENDA

Flow of the Event	Duration
Panel Discussion III **Ground Truthing Agri PV: Farmers, Business Models and Lessons from the Field** ***Moderated by*: Mr. Jaideep Saraswat**, *Associate Director, Vasudha Foundation* ***Session will explore*:** ▪ Ground-level lessons from early Agri PV deployment ▪ Farmer perspectives on RESCO and CAPEX-based models ▪ Emerging revenue streams, leasing arrangements ▪ Practical opportunities and overlooked implementation challenges ▪ Farmer decision-making, participation and risk considerations ▪ Insights for scaling farmer-centric Agri PV models **Panelists:** ▪ **Ms. Rina Soni,** *Executive Director, Passing Gifts* ▪ **Mr. Manish Khare**, *Co-Founder and Managing Director, Khare Energy* ▪ **Mr. Gulabsing Girase,** Director, Gro Solar Energy ▪ **Mr. Satyawan Sehrawat,** *Farmer and Agri PV Pioneer* ▪ **Mr. Harpal Singh,** *Farmer and Agri PV Pioneer* ▪ **Mr. Ishan Chaturvedi**, *Co-Founder, Vareyn Solar* ▪ **Mr. Tanuj Mohanty**, *Director & CEO, MGM Green* ***Stakeholders Feedback and Knowledge Sharing***	**12:40 PM – 1:25 PM** *(last 5 minutes for open-house discussion with the audience)*
Vote of Thanks **Shri Debasish Das,** *Director (Commercial), GRIDCO Limited*	**1:25 PM – 1.30 PM**
Networking Lunch	**1:30 PM – 2.30 PM**
One-to-One Meeting	**2:00 PM - 3:00 PM**