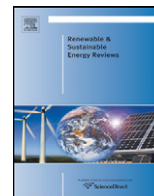




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Greener energy: Issues and challenges for Pakistan—Biomass energy prospective

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ABSTRACT

Diversification of fuel sources is imperative to address the energy security, climate change, and sustainable development issues; therefore, it is essential to address the energy crisis through the extensive utilization of abundant renewable energy resources, such as biomass energy, solar energy, wind energy and geothermal energy. Improving energy services for poor households in developing countries remains one of the most pressing challenges facing the development community. Earlier studies suggest in South Asia the households are likely to follow the energy ladder comprising fuels like dung, crop residue, firewood, kerosene, gohar gas, LPG, and electricity for cooking purposes. Evidence suggests that while it is possible to observe such transition in urban and semi-urban areas, the change is very slow in rural areas. In rural Pakistan, the access to commercial energy resources is limited, the majority of the households still heavily rely on traditional methods of using wood, animal waste and crop waste for domestic fuel needs. Efficiencies of use are very low and most of the potential is wasted because of non-scientific conventional technologies. Consequently there is an obligatory need to develop modern bio-energy technologies since renewable resources may serve to supplement the long-term energy needs of Pakistan to a significant level. Though the bio-resource base of Pakistan is substantial, its contribution to useful energy is low. In this paper we called attention to issues and challenges in biomass utilization for energy in Pakistan in context of sustainable development. This paper has identified areas in Pakistan where there is considerable scope to modernize biomass energy production delivery systems to provide varied energy carriers such as electricity, industrial and domestic fuel and gases. Barriers are examined over the whole biomass energy spectrum and policy issue and institutional roles and responsibilities are discussed.

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Contents

1. Introduction and background	3208
2. The Pakistan scenario	3209
3. Biomass in Pakistan: resource base and environmental concerns	3209
4. Supply and distribution system of wood fuels in Pakistan	3210
4.1. For household use	3210
4.2. For commercial purposes	3210
4.3. Wood fuel transportation	3210
5. Traditional biomass categorization	3211
5.1. Traditional biomass energy	3211
5.2. Biogas	3212
5.3. Fuel-efficient stoves	3213
6. Plans and strategies to promote biomass use in Pakistan	3214
6.1. The potential for modernized bioenergy	3214
6.1.1. Household applications	3214
6.1.2. Small enterprise applications	3215

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