

## **Key Project Information for the proposed Gold Standard Programme of Activities (PoA): “Improved Cookstove Distribution Across Rural Parts of India”**

The PoA involves providing access to clean and affordable cooking services in various states of India (in particular, poor rural households) through dissemination of improved, energy efficient Natural draft technology based biomass cookstoves (ICS) replacing use of traditional / non efficient biomass cookstoves. The natural draft stove is a unique solution for cooking. It produces clean and efficient heat without specialized fuels and with minimum smoke. Its scientific design is such that it draws fresh air into the combustion chamber along with wood gas resulting into cleaner, hotter and more efficient heat with very less smoke. Wood combustion air is driven into fire pot to create wood-gas (smoke). This occurs in the gasification zone. This Natural Draft Stove gives high performance at a low cost, making it the most economical solution that has no adverse health effects. The reduction in biomass fuel consumption will result in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with use of non-renewable biomass. The PoA will be implemented by “Larsen & Toubro (L&T)”, A Multinational Conglomerate Company. L&T is one of the largest and most respected companies in India's private sector with a strong track of both implementing renewable energy access programmes. The PoA ICSs will significantly reduce the biomass fuel consumption for project stove users by virtue of their high thermal efficiency as compared to traditional three stone fired / conventional cookstoves (baseline). Besides, the indoor air pollution (emission of Particulate matter, black carbon, smoke, GHGs etc.) associated with traditional cooking practices will also be reduced due to use of improved cooking technology. The primary beneficiaries of the project will be poor women and children since indoor air pollution association with traditional forms of cooking disproportionately affects them. In addition, the burden of drudgery related to collection of biomass fuel, borne exclusively by women and girls will reduce in project households. Project seeks to promote SDG 13.3, 7.1.2 and 3.9.1.