

# GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

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*Abstract - In this article I will be discussing on green technologies, what is green growth, maintaining and improving the quality of life, the killer green house, clean cooking facilities, organic farming, industrial pollution, e-wastes etc.*

*Indexed Terms: Green growth, global, fossil, non fossil, soil, recycles.*

## I. DISCUSSION

We are at the receiving end of the actions of our forefathers. Whatever we have and we don't are all of their making. History repeats because we don't take lessons from it, we don't learn from it. Should we follow suit was the question that loomed large over us in the present context of environmental degradation which effects growth. Therefore, we zeroed in on 'Green growth'.

What is Green Growth? According to the organization for economic cooperation and development "Green Growth" is about economic growth and development, while ensuring that the natural assets continue to provide resources and environmental services in which our well-being rests. The thirteenth finance commission of India clearly understood this in stating "green growth involves rethinking growth strategies with regard to the impact on environmental resources available to poor and vulnerable groups".

Maintaining and improving the quality of life for all our citizens may only be possible if the environmental degradation that we witness all around is reversed and the fragile ecology is preserved. These two prepositions are at the heart of the concept of green growth. In rethinking green growth, we need to focus on the current reality of the resource constrained world.

What is this reality due to? The killer green house gas is carbon dioxide. Let us take a look at the mind-numbing statistics: according to the centre for science and environment the cumulative co2 that was emitted from 1892-2007 was 1202GT. Out of this 700 GT were by developed countries, with the USA contributing 333GT, while the developing countries share was 502 GT. In Asia, China gave 104 GT, while India emitted 31 GT. In 2005, the co2 concentration was 383 ppm. If the emissions continue, it will reach 550ppm. If that happens global temperature will increase by 3 to 5 degrees. This will have catastrophic consequences. The target has to be 450ppm to keep the temperature rise under 2 degrees. At this moment, we are at 350 ppm. In short, the world has to drastically cut emissions by 85% to meet the objective. The only forward is for rich countries to reduce emissions. The good news is that some countries like France and Germany are already doing that by making a shift from fossils to non fossil energy.

Our country needs to get its act together. Nearly two third of the population remains without clean cooking facilities. They use wood, dung or kerosene for cooking. They too pollute; they don't have a choice as they are poor. According to a UN environment program report, open burning contributes about 24 % of the black carbon emissions from India.

Moving on to agriculture, we face a crisis because in India it is land, energy and water intensive, and all three resources are becoming increasingly scarce. The heavy use of chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides have ravaged our soil and contaminated our food chain and water supply. The prolonged and unprotected handling of toxic materials is exposing our farmers to multiple health problems, whose economic and social costs are rarely considered. The good news is that a number of field studies carried out in various parts of the country have demonstrated that high yields in agriculture are compatible with practices that make minimal use of chemical inputs, conserve water and

rely on organic nutrients and bio pesticides .The natural fertility of the soil in these locations has been restored also leading to the revival of micro- organisms in the sub soil which make soil a leaving assets.

Coming to two other crucial areas that cause untold damage to the environment i.e. industries and computers, negotiating industrial hazardous effluents and e-wastes is proving to be almost an impossible task. Here is the case where the fence destroys what it is supposed to protect. While contributing immensely to growth and development, both industries and computers cripple the economy, thanks to the costs that go to contain the dangerous ecological imbalances they cause. Computers are hard to recycle as they are made of lead, cadmium, brominated fire retardants and plastics that can lead to toxic break down products. The less we speak of the catastrophe caused by industries the better. It is common knowledge and it is there for everyone to see, more so , in industrial belts of our country.

In short, the use of carbon waste fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas using plastics , synthetic material and dangerous chemicals in gadgets , eco hostile industrial and agriculture practices, the threat posed by unsafe storage and applications of nuclear energy , etc are all at the heart of our economic process and hence the challenge we face both in dealing with most forms of environment degradation and climate change. Unless we make a strategic shift from our current reliance on fossil fuels to progressively greater use of renewable and clean sources of energy, green growth will remain a myth. Green growth in India can only be promoted by providing certain essential services to people as public goods. People have the right to mobility, not necessarily the right to private transportation for obtaining this service. We must invest in convenient and efficient public transportation, discourage private transport. Encourage the use of rail transport and water ways would be less costly and less polluting while bringing benefits to the vast majority of the people.

It goes without saying that green technologies must find their application in every domain of human activity and endeavours, particularly in machines and industries. Green technology is that technology which is environment friendly developed and used in such a way that it does not disturb our environment and

conserves natural resources. The purpose of this technology is to reduce green house effect and the attendant global warming. The auto industry deserves praise for manufacturing hybrid electric cars which are environmentally friendly machines. Thanks to the combination of engine and internal combustion engine system with one or more electric motors. They pollute less, they are less noisy and give better gas mileage. This is a classic example to show that green technologies are sure to rule the future.

Let us all hope that India will be able to position itself as an early leader in the green technology revolution. Let this article be an eye opener to the dangers faced by the planet. The future looks decidedly dangerous. Unless we take prompt action in a spirit of cooperation among nations, we will force upon future generations an atmosphere that will take centuries to repair.

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