



Some Suggestions & Thoughts on

Improving the GHG Emissions Inventory Processes within India



The GHG Platform India, is a collective civil society initiative engaged in providing an independent estimation and analysis of India's Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. The platform consists of the **Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)**, **Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (C-STEP)**, **Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia (ICLEI)**, **SHAKTI Sustainable Energy Foundation**, **Vasudha Foundation**, and **World Resources Institute – India**.

The Platform seeks to add value to the various ongoing efforts of the Government of India by helping address data gaps and data accessibility issues, extending beyond the scope of national inventories, and by increasing the volume of analytics and policy dialogue on India's GHG emission sources, profile and related policies.

This is especially relevant in light of the pronouncements of the Government of India to come up with the annual GHG inventories and creation of a climate budget.

In this regard, the GHG Platform India would like to share some of its experiences and learning from carrying out estimations of GHG emissions of India at the national level for 2007-2012. Some of the outputs from this exercise include detailed sectoral trend analyses at the economy wide, sector and sub-sector levels.

Further, based on our experiences and learning, we would also like to make some recommendations for further strengthening the basis on which GHG estimations are being done. These recommendations concern highlighting of **existing data gaps, further strengthening of ongoing data gathering efforts of the Government of India, as well as certain process related aspects of calculating GHG emissions of India.**

Existing Data Gaps

There is a paucity of reliable data for certain sectors.

Taking the waste sector as a case in point, there is a need for periodic reporting for the following aspects:

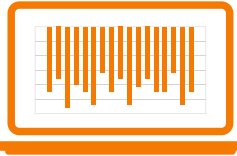
- a. Changes in solid waste composition and generation rates with changing lifestyles at the state and city level
- b. Treatment technologies and performance of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) by the Central and State Pollution Control Boards
- c. Status and impacts of on-ground developments and improvements in wastewater treatment technologies

In addition, there are also data gaps such as those that are present in the case of the energy sector, such as:

- a. Activity data specific to diesel consumption needs to be disaggregated. The aggregated diesel consumption numbers need to be broken down based on sectoral consumption such as surface transport, telecommunications, fisheries, etc.
- b. Similarly, CNG and PNG consumption data needs to be further disaggregated sectorally

Suggestions for Addressing Existing Data Gaps

We would strongly urge the government to integrate specific data gathering and data disaggregating processes within existing and ongoing processes that may need further strengthening. For example, the annual reporting by State Pollution Control Boards and under the Swachh Bharat Mission needs to be strengthened and expanded to include solid waste composition along with updated status of operational and non-operational solid waste processing plants. This will help to accurately assess the waste going to disposal sites and generating GHG emissions. In addition, wastewater treatment status reports by the Central Pollution Control Board should include information on the operational status and type of wastewater treatment technologies being used. This will help to capture updated status of technological improvements and functionality and thereby improve accuracy of the emission estimates. Further, using a single unit of measurement for production by the various types of industries so that the reliability and comprehensiveness of the data being generated can lend itself to more accurate GHG emissions estimates, can further strengthen the existing process of the Annual Survey of Industries. In addition, the State Pollution Control Boards could also make available the data that they collect from all the registered industries within their jurisdiction as well as enhance its reliability by keeping in mind aspects of **data uniformity** and **enhanced reporting disaggregation**.



Greater Accessibility of Public Data

Apart from the data gaps pertaining to energy, waste and industrial sectors, we would also urge the government to make land use data more easily and cheaply available than is the case at present. While agencies such as the National Remote Sensing Agency and the Forest Survey of India are doing a stellar job in this regard, some of their products, especially in digital form, are prohibitively expensive and thus out of the reach of most researchers.



Procedural Suggestions

In addition, we would also like to make some procedural points. While we understand that there is involvement of a large number of institutions outside the government in the process of the creation of official GHG inventories, there is a need to broaden the base of this participation to include additional interested stakeholders including the GHG Platform India who may be able to engage with the relevant experts to improve the replicability and frequency of the official GHG inventories.



Capacity Building

Further, we would also like to urge the Government of India to embark on a process of building capacities at the state level to begin creating state level inventories that could also feed into formulation of state level policies by integrating climate change into the decision making process.



Comparison with Other Estimates of India's GHG Emissions

Finally, we would also urge the government to create comparison matrices on India's emission estimates by various organisations outside the country such as Climate Works, World Resources Institute, FAO and others. The GHG platform India would like to offer assistance to the Government of India in this regard.



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