



Press Release

73rd Cairo Climate Talks

April 20, 2021

On the 20th of April 2021 the Cairo Climate Talks hosted the first talk for 2021. The 73rd CCT titled “Biogas Production: a growing demand and a growing potential” started off with a conversation about this promising comprehensive solution that is yet to be fully explored in the Egyptian context.

Philippe Maupai, Head of the Science Department at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany welcomed the guests and shared the role that biomass in general and biogas specifically have been playing in Germany’s energy transition. “Egypt with its important agricultural sector has a huge potential for developing biogas, and especially decentralized biogas productions” he added. On his part, Dr. Aly Abu Sena, Minister of Environment Assistant for Projects gave an overview of the ministry’s efforts in promoting and facilitating the use of bioenergy and biogas in energy production through establishing the Bioenergy Foundation for Sustainable Development. The Bioenergy Foundation for Sustainable Development is providing technical and financial assistance and has so far collaborated with the campaign on establishing 1600 biogas units. He expanded on the foundation’s work: “The foundation is also working on large scale units, supporting the ministry of environment to create a waste-to-energy program targeting big sized units”. He continued to stress on the importance of collaboration since the foundation is a result of a partnership between the government, NGOs, the banking sector and international partners.

When asked about the value of biogas projects and how they have become an asset in rural communities in Egypt, Ghada Ahmadein the Technical Advisor for the Small Grants Programme at the UNDP, talked about the two prominent projects implemented since 2013 in the governorates of Fayoum and Assiut. NGOs were funded in assigned villages to promote the biogas technology in other villages and governorates. In Assiut, NGOs organized seminars and field visits to educate farmers about biogas technology and promote its use, she revealed “they gathered more than 2000 requests from farmers to install biogas units in their lands”. In Fayoum, 20 young women were trained to conduct more than 3000 door-to-door visits to talk to women in villages for education and promotion and created a list of requests. In a following phase, NGOs were trained to install biogas units.

Menna Gomaa, Director of ESG Engagement and Corporate Reporting at Masader, explained how agriculture poses a strain on resources such as water and energy. She went on to highlight how

biogas production contributes to several SDGs including poverty, affordable clean energy and industry innovation and infrastructure, “biogas in brief, is an energy sector meeting national sustainable development requirement, and it maximizes efficient use of various traditional renewable resources, contributing to our economic growth, achieving social justice, and of course preserving the environment” she added. Addressing the topic of stakeholder engagement, Menna called it a vital key to a successful renewable energy project to fulfill the real needs of the community. Stakeholder engagement planning imagines an ideal communication scenario.

Expanding on the work of the Bioenergy Foundation for Sustainable Development, Engineer Mahmoud El Tohamy explained that the foundation focuses on raising awareness between farmers about the technology as well as the value of available resources such as sludge and manure. The foundation also trains local engineers for the installation and operation of the biogas units. The foundation also connects farmers and engineers to companies working in the field of biogas. Currently, the foundation is developing a national strategy for large scale biogas promotion and have already developed a plan working with the Giza Zoo to use animal manure for energy production.

Wrapping up the discussion, Marwan echoed the sentiment of the speakers that biogas technology can be extremely rewarding in rural areas due to the environmental benefits of using the waste, the produced gas, the compost byproduct, and uplifting the community through capacity building and energy autonomy. Cairo Climate Talks will also be exploring more energy, social and environmental issues in 2021 in collaboration with our local and international partners.

Background Information:

The Cairo Climate Talks are conceived, organized and hosted as a cooperation between the German Embassy in Cairo, the Egyptian Ministry of Environment, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ).

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