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Fuel wood has remained the principal component of rural domestic energy, and also the source of commercial energy such as brick kilns, hotels and restaurants in semi-urban areas. The percentage of population using fuel wood is higher in rural areas (67.3%) and 14% in urban and semi-urban areas (NSSO, 2012). Fuel wood is largely used by women for cooking purpose and approximately spends

more than 374 hours in a year for collecting fuel wood (clencookstove.org). The fuel wood has been collected from forests, trees grown on farm lands, homesteads and common land outside forest. The annual fuel wood consumption by 854 million people in India is 216.4 million tonnes per year (FSI, 2011)





will be net source of GHG emissions in future due to unsustainable harvest of fuel wood and other MFPs, forest fire, overgrazing and poor regeneration. The overdependence on forests for livelihood and domestic consumption has to be substituted with natural resource based livelihood and irrigated agriculture and assisted natural regeneration which requires 6153 million US \$ per year along with other policy interventions such as community based forest governance, capacity building of frontline staff and

community, involvement of private sector. Government of India needs to revive subsidy on cooking gas (LPG) to reduce the unsustainable harvest and use of fuel wood. This will help India in achieving NDCs of forestry sector, mitigating climate change, poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation and improvement in the quality of forests , and also contributing towards SDG 13,14,15, national biodiversity targets and Aichi Targets.

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