

## A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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*A little more than seven decades after independence, India has undoubtedly emerged as a global player- politically, economically, and strategically. However, Indian villages seem to be missing out on the overall progress of the country even though they form the backbone of India's self-sufficiency in food.*

*Indian villages are rich in natural resources of one kind or another. We argue that there exist considerable economic opportunities for the marginal farmers outside standard agriculture such as in animal husbandry, poultry farming, apiculture, pisciculture, mushroom farming, organic agriculture, etc.*

*Increasing the use of local renewable energy resources can, not only address the energy needs of the villages but also trigger innovation and entrepreneurship in the villages creating jobs and wealth. The villages can also benefit by exporting the surplus electricity to the grid or by producing storable and transportable fuels like hydrogen and ammonia for several transport and industrial applications in the future.*

*The need for country-wide mapping of resources at the village level, widespread dissemination of success stories that can be replicated, incentives for entrepreneurship, and investments in villages are also highlighted.*

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