



Webinar Summary

Implementation strategies for India Cooling Action Plan

2nd September 2020

BACKGROUND

The India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) launched in March 2019 by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is a seminal policy document that provides a synergistic approach to holistically address cooling. It provides a 20-year perspective on the cooling needs of India as well as the actions needed to provide sustainable cooling across sectors including space cooling, cold-chain and refrigeration, transport air-conditioning, refrigeration and air-conditioning servicing sector, indigenous production of refrigerants, and R&D in the cooling domain. While ICAP outwardly addresses cooling and cooling-related practices, its rationale lies in delivering far-reaching socio-economic benefits to Indians, which becomes even more imperative as the nation grapples with the COVID-19 crises. The India Cooling Coalition is a multi-stakeholder group started in 2016 to promote the concepts on lean, mean and green development, universal thermal comfort for all and to contribute to the drafting and implementation of the ICAP.

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE WEBINAR

Economic recovery, employment generation, better health and higher liveability standards have become the focal point of the Indian Government in these challenging times. In the run-up to the implementation of India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), the 'India Cooling Coalition' hosted its first webinar on 'Implementation strategies for India Cooling Action Plan' on 2nd September 2020. It aimed to provide insights into the **objectives and recommendations of ICAP**, the **strategy for its implementation including the diverse role of different stakeholders** and the **role of ICAP in delivering socio-economic benefits to support a clean and resilient Covid-19 recovery**. Highlighting ideas and lessons from eminent speakers like Shrimati Geeta Menon representing The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Mr Abhay Bhakre representing The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and Ms Lily Riahi representing the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the webinar offered its 200 plus participants an exciting opportunity to engage with leading experts and identify ways to meet the targets set by the ICAP for 2037-2038. The webinar also hosted a comprehensive panel discussion by Dr Satish Kumar, Ms Shikha Bhasin and Mr Karan Mangotra who emphasised on **the impact of ICAP on national and international policymaking**, its **significance for economic recovery in the wake of the ongoing pandemic** and the **way forward**. This entire session was moderated by Mr Shubhashis Dey from the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation and the AEEE team.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1) Government perspective on ICAP implementation by

Shrimati Geeta Menon, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

The current Covid-19 crisis has provided the Government of India and its associated stakeholders a chance to revisit the goals set under the ICAP and access and integrate the present-day challenges in a more adaptable manner. It has trickled several minds with a question such as "Would we do things the same way had the pandemic not been there?", "How can ICAP impact every segment of the society?".

The 'India Cooling Coalition' is a synergy between various sectors of the Government and its role along with its 19 members is to make critical interventions under the umbrella of ICAP and reorient the pre-set targets of reduction in cooling demand, refrigerant demand and cooling energy requirements for the next couple of decades. It is not only important to provide the best energy efficient technology to the people of a nation; it is also important to focus on reaching the masses so that the most vulnerable



segment of our societies also benefit from a policy or program equally. As leaders of the ICAP movement, the focus of the “India Cooling Coalition” must encompass thermal comfort for all, sustainable cooling, ensuring livelihood, improving chances of livelihood advancement and energy efficient technology to improve availability and accessibility to food, vaccine and medicine keeping Covid-19 in mind.

“We need a concrete action plan to help India overcome its battle against Covid-19 recovery, and we have a unique opportunity to tie the country’s socio-economic recovery to the objectives and goals of the ICAP.”

Shrimati Geeta Menon also echoed the words of the UN Secretary from the London Climate Action Plan stating that India’s efforts of drafting a comprehensive document for the ICAP has set a global example which other countries must learn. ICAP is a stellar reflection of India’s leadership and strong political will in coming up with a comprehensive action plan for sustainably managing the country’s cooling energy demand.

However, the Government of India believes that India has won only half the battle with drafting the ICAP the other half will only be won by overcoming the socio-economic concerns, meeting the objective behind programs such as Make in India and Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan and setting a leadership example for all the nations across the globe.

2) Role of flagship programmes to enable thermal comfort and the relevance of ICAP by

Mr Abhay Bakre, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency is a statutory body under the Ministry of Power of the Government of India plays a role in setting up energy efficient schemes in various sectors by engaging stakeholders and consumers. Presently, the BEE is taking extensive measures to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on public health and subsequent economic crisis by quickly adopting energy efficient scheme for RACs and reforming the Standards and Labelling Program.

“Statistical studies show that we can save almost 45,000 crores in appliances and 35,000 crores in the industries sector in the coming decade by upgrading the existing technology and innovation in new technology for RACs.”

India has been successful in providing electricity to every corner of the nation. This surplus electricity supply will be followed with more reliance on cooling devices such as refrigerators, fans, coolers and eventually ACs, increased domestic manufacturing for RACs, increased suppliers and dealers in the market and a definite increase in the number of manufacturing units in the country. India is also looking at becoming the global head for energy efficient RACs for its neighbouring countries. This drastic multiplication expected in the energy demand numbers clubbed with the ongoing crisis has forced BEE to think about a **green and sustainable recovery plan** which will primarily focus on energy efficiency in the cooling demand nationally and globally. In response, India has signed a MoU is developing on the regional South Asia initiative for S&L for RACs to avoid Indian manufacturers dumping non-compliant RACs in their neighbouring countries.



As cooling plays a central role in supporting societies through the Covid-19 crisis, from protecting temperature-sensitive medical supplies and patients in hospitals to ensuring food preservation, it can no longer be seen as a luxury. With the combined efforts of the GOI and stakeholders, Indian manufacturers will not only become more efficient in their production for the local market, they will also provide the best technology to the neighbouring markets.

3) Global initiatives and programmes on cooling by

Ms Lily Riahi, Coordinator, Cool Coalition, United Nations Environment Programme

The ICAP is a major building block of the global NCAP methodology. UNEP 'Cool Coalition' is currently developing NCAP with support from AEEE, ESCAP, KCEP and other partners. It will help other countries to define energy efficiency standards in the cooling segment. In addition, it will also help in strengthening the collaboration between the India Cooling Coalition and the Cool Coalition.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals set up by the UN, attention must be laid on better global access to cooling to help increase productivity, better distribution of medicines and vaccines and minimizing food loss and food waste. As per IEA report from 2018, the global energy demands in the space cooling area is expected to grow 3 times by 2050 which is the equivalent to the overall energy demands of the whole of India and China as of 2020. This surge will drive the shift to renewables and decarbonisation.

“Globally, 10 Air Conditioners will be purchased every second in the following three decades.”

A comprehensive approach must be taken to link the various solutions, and technical advancements in the refrigerant and air conditioner manufacturing industries and engulf them at the policymaking level in each country. ICAP is the most comprehensive initiative of India and has set an example to tackle the cooling challenge. ICAP takes into account the existing policies and programs for various sectors. It is a blueprint for a comprehensive strategy at a national level addressing issues such as:

- Assessment of cooling requirements, refrigerant demand and energy use
- Coordinating efficiency with refrigerant transition interventions
- Mapping old and new technologies
- Aligning existing policies and programmes
- Creating a multi-stakeholder framework for the sectoral implementation of ICAP.

DISCUSSION ON THE SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPLEMENTATIONAL STRATEGY OF ICAP

4) Implication of ICAP on national and international policy initiatives by

Dr Satish Kumar, Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE)

Cooling lies at the center of national initiatives such as Power for All, Housing for All, Doubling Farmers' Income; global commitments including NDC under Paris Agreement, Kigali Amendment and Sustainable Development Goals and; inherent human needs for thermal comfort and ICAP is a response to that. The work done under ICAP can be aligned with economic recovery, and Indian Government is already working towards the implementation of some of the existing national policies in space cooling and cold-chain and refrigeration sector as part of India's stimulus package.



Dr Satish also underlined the parallels between the work being done under the global Cool Coalition and supported Lily Riahi's proposition for collaboration between global Cool Coalition and India Cooling Coalition. He further highlighted the collaborative work being done in association with UNEP and UNESCAP for developing National Cooling Action Plans (NCAPs) and also welcomed Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program's (K-CEP)'s initiative to work in India to include efficient and climate friendly cooling in enhanced NDCs. There lies a promising opportunity for K-CEP to partner with India Cooling Coalition and leverage the diverse expertise that lies within different members of the Coalition.

Highlighting the growing focus towards cooling, Dr Satish also gave a brief overview of the project SHEETAL, supported by Children Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and led by The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI) in partnership with AEEE and Council for Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) for facilitating the implementation of ICAP. In the cold-chain sector, AEEE has recently undertaken a comprehensive study on the role of packhouses in improving energy efficiency across cold chain sector, and the report will be launched by BEE and World Bank in the upcoming months. In addition, for easy comprehension and access of ICAP data assessment, AEEE has been working on creating data stories on Tableau, which will be launched along with the India Cooling Coalition website soon.

5) Socio-economic implications of ICAP and its significance for economic recovery in the wake of COVID-19 by

Ms Shikha Bhasin, Council for Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW)

With the increased demand for cooling globally and IEA reports from 2018 showing the alarming increase in the AC sales, the industry is expected to promptly respond to these numbers with greener and more sustainable technology and better investments in their supply chains and inventories. Policymakers also have a crucial role to play in creating market readiness and preparing it to absorb newer generations of technology and catering to the escalating demands. They are also trying to address the ongoing trend of AC sales across the globe, which is strongly affected by the second and third-hand sales market, creating a vast unorganised sector which is difficult to monitor.

India is amongst the five largest manufacturers of refrigerants and is currently undergoing a transition to create more climate friendly products. This shift in trend was supported by all the global leaders both politically and industry related as in the KIGALI Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. India has showcased the immense amount of leadership to support this amendment by carefully analysing the expected demand growth of the country and creating the required R&D space as a manufacturing country to meet that demand. Although the unexpected interceding of Covid-19 has forced all of us to think about the need for growth and more prominently, sustainable , it has also created an opportunity for the creation of large-scale employment. Ensuring accessibility, availability and that the informal economy of our society benefits by being a part of the supply chain is of utmost importance to India.

“We need to start thinking about the financial, operational and technical risks involved for our small, medium and micro enterprises and large-scale industries, with this increase in the demand and supply chain.”

The need of the hour is to set a benchmark to authorise low GWP refrigerant use in appliances and cold chain, maximise the current manufacturing potential of India and invigorate the upskilling of factory workers and assemblers. This will help India in moving forward and becoming a part of the



global supply chain. To accelerate the pathway to global advancement, India will also have to ensure certainty in policy, a fast track window to update standards, dive deeper into creating standards for not just its buildings but for each building component, and lastly, ensure proper alignment of existing building codes and policies with the new energy efficiency policies.

6) Ongoing and future efforts needed in ICAP implementation by

Mr Karan Mangotra, The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI)

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has brought aspects of social resilience, access to cooling and the vulnerability of different strata of the society into the picture. The lockdown imposed by the GOI in March 2020 up until early July has had an enormous impact on the sales of air conditioners in the country as most parts of India experience peak summer during this period.

The key 5 steps Indian stakeholders must look into to regain self-reliance and to re-establish themselves post the pandemic are:

- 1) ICAP: ICAP is a guidance document which has nudged various countries globally, guided them on interlinkages between different aspects of sustainability and climate change to devise a pandemic recovery plan.
- 2) Reduce the cooling demand: Implementation of Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) in the state for commercial and residential buildings must be made more stringent. Additional national and sub-national action plans must be brought on board.
- 3) Try and make the most efficient appliance the most preferred one. The biggest hindrance in the public procurement of new technology is the associated cost which needs to be incentivised with government interventions.
- 4) In-depth understanding of the applicability of the technology in the various geographies of India for large scale adoption to make a more informed choice.
- 5) Understanding the role of civil society in facilitating research, government bodies and financial institutes to understand risks and increase stakeholder awareness.