



**Community biogas plants for energy services:  
IEI's Rural Electricity and Water Supply Utility (REWSU) project**

*with special reference to the utility at  
Mavinakere  
(Arsikere taluk, Hassan district, Karnataka)*

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**September 2003**

## **Abstract**

*This study focuses on one village system of IEI's Rural Energy and Water-supply Utility (REWSU) project (1994-98), funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.*

*After briefly reporting on the status of the REWSUs originally invested in and the causes for their discontinuation, a detailed report is presented on the operation of the plant at Mavinakere village, Arsikere taluk, Hassan district, Karnataka. This includes quantitative input/output information on the diesel and dung used for fuelling the engine, electricity generated, and water supplied, and other performance indicators such as the number of break-downs, and the tariff collection, particularly since the IEI research staff came to be involved in the year 2001.*

*The life-cycle costs of electricity generation from a biogas-diesel plant (@ 2003 prices) have been computed, for the purpose of comparison with other options; however, the costs of water distribution through other schemes have not yet been obtained and therefore the comparison of water-supply costs through alternative schemes has not been made.*

*The report concludes with a section on the lessons learnt so far from the REWSU project and suggestions for the successful functioning of such rural utilities. These lessons pertain chiefly to technical and sociological factors in the selection of a village, the tasks of promoters/implementers of the project, the role of the operator(s), and the prevailing state policies regarding finance, and integrated development.*

**Keywords: rural energy system, village system management, biogas, waste to energy, rural energy use**

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