



Press release

## **Padarwadi village near Pune gets electrified through effective utilization of renewable sources for power generation**

**March 21, 2011; Pune:** Residents of Padarwadi, a small village of 12 below-poverty-line households with total population of 50, near Pune, witnessed a historic event today, with the inauguration of the rural electrification project at the village. The initiative is a result of exhaustive work undertaken in the area of rural electrification by the leader in engine technology, Cummins India Limited. Three years ago the Company had collaborated with Cummins Engine Research Facility (CERF) at IIT Bombay and the READ Foundation, an NGO, for developing a sustainable and replicable electrification model for remote villages across India.

The primary objective of the program was to develop and establish a Distributed Generation Model for rural electrification that is economically sustainable, scalable and uses the “Right Technology” for electricity generation utilizing locally available renewable energy sources (Straight Vegetable Oil from non edible oil seeds grown locally or biogas from oil cake), whilst minimizing overall carbon emissions. In a bid to achieving all of this, a generator set that operates successfully on indigenously developed Straight Vegetable Oil (SVO) technology was designed and tested at CERF.

Subsequently, in March 2010, a prototype of the project was validated in village Kolha, near Bhubaneswar in Orissa. Today, a year later, the project has found its way into Maharashtra, with the replication of the model at Padarwadi village, approximately 100 kms from Pune, with a focus to utilize electricity for productive use rather than home lighting. The village produces 35 tons of paddy annually. The produce is carried uphill at a local mill at Bhimashankar several times in a year for de-husking. In an attempt to rid the villagers of the laborious task of towing the produce up and down the hill, Cummins along with a renowned NGO, Maharashtra Arogya Mandal, met with the villagers to explore the feasibility of running a rice mill with electricity generated from locally available Pongamia seeds.

With funding from Cummins India Foundation and collective efforts between those involved, the generator set was commissioned, making the village self sufficient with locally produced fuel for generating power.

On this occasion Beau Lintereur, Vice President – Cummins Power Generation said “We are delighted with the success of the project and the prospects it presents for the people of Padarwadi. It is the joint efforts of our employees, representatives of Maharashtra Arogya Mandal and most importantly the resilience of the villagers that has resulted in this solution for producing power within the village, which is green, sustainable and scalable. Cummins is happy to support initiatives that improve people’s lives in such innovative ways.”

In addition to rice milling, there are by-products from the system that have commercial value. Oil cake is nutrient rich and excellent natural manure, excess Pongamia Oil is widely used for medicinal purposes in India, and even the rice husks are commonly used as an animal fodder. Maharashtra Arogya Mandal has established a market for these products which has the potential to provide an added income of over Rs. 1L annually for the 12 households of Padarwadi.



About Cummins India Limited (CIL)

Cummins India Limited, in Pune since 1962, is the country's leading manufacturer of diesel and gas engines for power generation, industrial and automotive markets. Cummins India Limited is the largest company of the Cummins Group in India.

About Cummins in India

Part of the US \$13.2 billion Cummins Inc., Cummins in India is a group of nine entities across 200 locations in the country with a combined turnover of Rs. 8,500 crores and employing over 11,000 individuals.

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