



# Access to Sustainable Cooling

Innovation and Scale of Sustainable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Green Built Environments in Cooling Solutions for Vulnerable Communities

**SELCO** Foundation  
[www.selcofoundation.org](http://www.selcofoundation.org)







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**SELCO Foundation | Goal 2021 - 2024**

# SELCO Foundation

**Goal:** SELCO Foundation seeks to inspire and implement socially, financially and environmentally inclusive solutions by improving access to sustainable energy.

**Role of SELCO Foundation and its Partners:** is to create benchmarks and replicable processes for achieving SDG 7 through all other SDGs by demonstrating inclusive and effective approaches to poverty alleviation.

## Global SDG 7 Hubs (Knowledge and Cross Learnings)

Innovation

Incubation

Institutionalization

## Core Philosophies



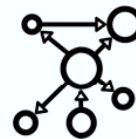
### Local ownership

Is built among stakeholders  
decentralization of sustainable assets  
for productive use where is maximum  
value capture and ownership is  
generated at end the user level



### Need based innovation (technical, financial and social innovation)

designed and deployed keeping end-  
user at centre, end users as core  
owners of the problem, innovators,  
partners and investors



### Systems Thinking

Creation of enabling conditions  
for innovations to scale is  
recognizing and building cross  
sectoral and interdisciplinary  
stakeholders at different levels



### Implementation based

More emphasis on on-ground  
implementation driven learnings  
and evidence building than a  
prolonged theoretical and  
research phases

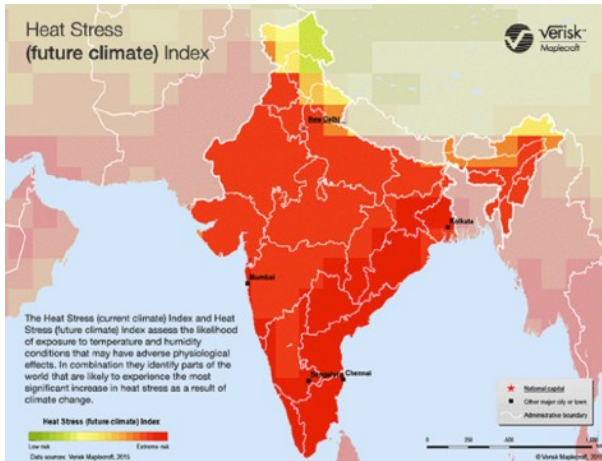


### Process Replication

scaling of processes by  
contextualizing it to the  
needs

# Why Cooling?

## Cooling : The Next Big Inequality Challenge



**Increased geographies impacted by Heat Stress (exasperated due to inefficient built environments):** India's National Disaster Management Authority reported that the number of Indian states hit by heat waves had grown to 19 in 2018 from nine in 2015, and was expected to reach 23 in 2019.

**Lack of Cooling Infrastructure for Immunisation:** 2 million people die from preventable diseases due to damaged or degraded vaccines that were improperly refrigerated and did not follow protocols while in transit.

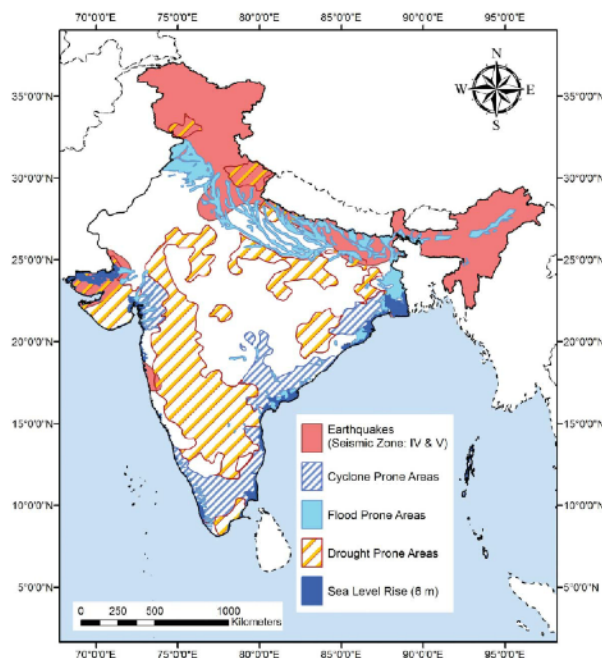
**Reduced Productivity due to Inefficient Cooling and Increased Heat Stress:** India is projected to lose 5.8 per cent of working hours in 2030, a productivity loss equivalent to 34 million full-time jobs, due to global warming, particularly impacting agriculture and construction sectors, a report by the UN labour agency said.

**Inefficient Energy Needs for Informal Home-based workers:** Poorly designed, multi-functional workspaces rely on incremental appliance based solutions for cooling - potential energy poverty trap

**Shortage in Cold Storage resulting in Wastage and Loss of Income:** India would need 3 million tonnes of additional cold storage and distribution hubs simply to catch up with current levels of food production and demand – never mind satisfy future growth.

**Inequality in Cooling Access:** More than 70% of existing capacity serves only potato produce, both in terms of capacity and specifications.
























Infrastructure is primarily concentrated in few states, and that too near urban centers. This severely limits access to cold chain infrastructure for other produce, especially vegetables and fruits.





# Need : Spectrum of Cooling

Passive Technology			Active Technology						Passive Technology			
Space Cooling							Application Cooling					
<b>Heat Infiltration</b> Insulation, Wall, Shading	<b>Ventilation</b> Fenestration		Exhaust (Room)	Exhaust (Spot)	<b>Cooling</b> Fans (Wind, Chill Effect)		Water Based Cooler	Radiant Cooling	AC (PCM Based or Ice Based)	AC (Cold storage or Cold room)	Freezer and Refrigerator	Portable Cooling Solutions

<b>Health Well-being</b>												<p>Cooling for homes, health centres, schools etc</p> <p>Heat exhaustion for cooking</p> <p>Cooling for homes, health centres, schools etc - peak summers and heat stress zones <b>Combined with passive technologies to optimise cooling needs</b></p> <p>Health: ILRs and Vaccine storage; Blood Storage and other medical samples Household Refrigeration</p> <p>Health: Active and Passive Vaccine Carriers</p>	
<b>Livelihood</b>													<p>Storage Units for cereals, and vegetables such as onions, potatoes</p> <p>Cold Storage for Seed Storage, Aggregation and Processing</p> <p>Retail Shops (including value-add: cut fruits and vegetables, juice etc)</p> <p>Transportation of Fruits and Vegetables</p>
<b>Animal Husbandry</b>	Cooling/ Heating for animal sheds (dairy and poultry)				Cooling/ Heating for animal sheds (dairy and poultry)			Cold Storage for Meat, and Processed Food		Milk Chillers and Coolers Retail Shops		Transportation of Milk and Dairy Products, Meat etc	
<b>Micro Businesses</b>	Cooling for shops, home based businesses			Exhaust for businesses that use Kilns, furnaces, forges etc		Cooling for shops, home based businesses		Shared Cold Storage Units in Markets (flower, meat, fish, vegetable and fruits)		Restaurants, Retail, Mobile Vendors, Delivery Agents			

# Designing Solutions for Improved Access to Cooling

Technology | Finance | Ownership

Combination of energy efficient appliances, decentralised renewable energy and sustainable built environments can lead to decentralised, sustainable and resilient models for optimised cooling solutions.

Energy Efficiency



Health and Well-being

Sustainable Energy



Productivity and Income Increase

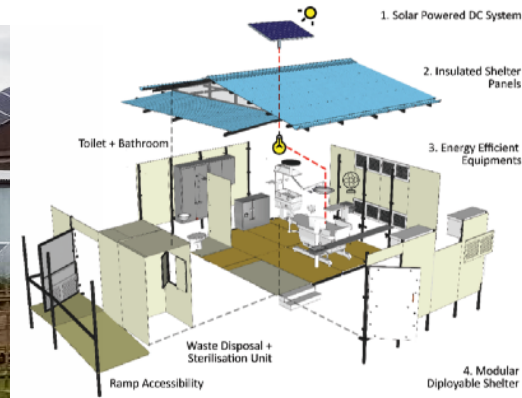
Sustainable Built Environments

Aspirational Livelihoods

Technology as a catalyst combined with appropriate finance, training, linkages and policy environment



# Solutions | Health and Well-being



Cold Storage for Immunization  
Optimised Space Cooling

Overall reduction in energy consumption for Cooling- 85%



Improved thermal comfort environment for both patients and health centre staff.



Improved productivity of health centre staff due to effective use of space.



Reduced dependency on energy for active cooling to maintain the required thermal comfort + Reduced Vaccine Wastage

Proving of models and processes with Karuna Trust

Replication and Adoption by multiple health partners

District wide Programs with Government Health Departments

State-wide program for strengthening of health system in Manipur and Meghalaya

Sharing Guidelines for National and Global Policy Stakeholders

20 health centres

500 health centres

Processes across State

1000 health centres (25+ million population)

Mapping Health Cooling Requirements  
Health-Energy Audits  
Critical Loads  
Optimization of Cooling Needs  
Efficiency of Equipments

Financing and Maintenance through local institutions- ARS  
Procurement guidelines and building guidelines for energy efficiency

Influencing policies and guidelines with IRENA and WHO for developing nations  
Training of government health staff  
Procurement guidelines and building guidelines for energy efficiency

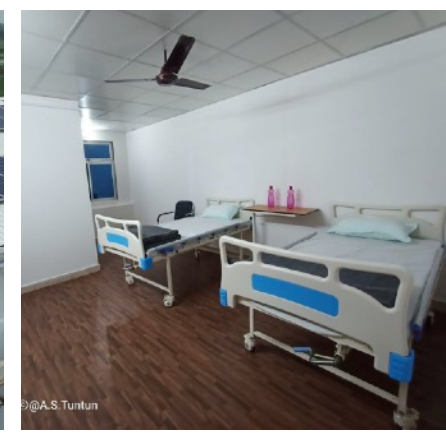
**Challenge:** The hot season lasts for 3.0 months, from **March 27 to June 26, with an average daily high temperature above 35°C.** The hottest day of the year is May 23, with an average high of 38°C with **relative humidity levels ranging from 45 to 60%.** **Sweltering conditions of high temperatures and high relative humidity resulted in heat stress in doctors and health professionals and lowered productivity levels. Additionally PPE suit utilisation and wastage increased 10 folds.**

## Solutions | Health and Well-being

100% ECO friendly walling and flooring compressed Agri Fibre panels which is manufactured using the crop residue - **better insulation compared to conventional walling and flooring panels.**

Roofing panels additionally **insulated with reflective surface finishes** to further reduce indoor temperatures.

**Ventilation systems and exhausts** added to aid the ventilation



System	Efficient appliances with Green Building Design	In-Efficient appliances with Green Building Design	In-Efficient appliances with standard typical building designs
Total Load Connected	4290 W	5749 W	5749 W
Total Units Required	21.8 Units	30.63 Units	52.34 Units
Solar Panel Capacity	12 kWp	16.2 kWp	26 kWp
% of Savings (Energy)	28.82%		
	(solution without energy efficient appliances and with green building design)		
	58.34%		
	(savings with both- energy efficiency and green building design)		



## Solutions | Health and Well-being

### Case Study: Improved Cooling Solutions for Last Mile Immunization

	Passive Vaccine Carriers	Active Vaccine Carriers
<b>Temperature maintained for</b>	4 hrs	11 hrs
<b>Vaccine wastage</b>	Based on the calculation per dosage, after the completion of the MHU the team used to discard vaccines approximately worth INR 500 every day (INR 13,000 per month)	No vaccine spoilage was observed. Unused vaccines could be used the following day
<b>Outreach</b>	Outreach in summer limited to a smaller geography	Outreach unaffected by seasons Improvement: from 30 to 50 children

## Cold Storage Requirements

**Bio Samples** -80 to -130°C

**TB** -70°C

**Vaccine** 2 - 8°C

**Blood** 2 - 4°C

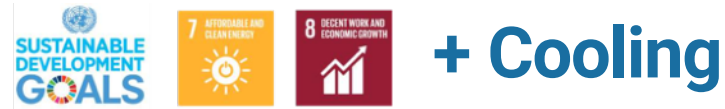
**Platelet Storage** 20 - 24°C

**RBC / WBC Storage** 2 - 4°C

**Frozen Plasma, Cryodepleted plasma, Cryoprecipitate** -25°C



# Active Cooling Solution for Agriculture and Animal Husbandry



**Agriculture & Food Processing**



**Animal Husbandry**



**Cold Storage**

Horticulture,  
Floriculture,  
Meat and Fish



**Refrigerator**

Retail Storage of  
Beverages, Animal  
Products and  
Vegetables



**Vaccine Storage**

Poultry, Goats and Cows



**Dairy**

**Vaccine  
Carrier**

**Portable  
Storage**

**Stationary  
Storage**

**Milk  
Chillers**

**Dairy Product  
Storage**



## Solutions | Livelihood: Agriculture

# Solar Powered Decentralised Agri Cold Storage Solutions

### Kunabi Community in North Karnataka

40 varieties of tubers grown

Increased demand but non-availability of the produce throughout the year

Cold Storage for 20 marginal farmers with around 2 acres each, designed to store for 3-4 months at 14-16°C temperature

### IMPACT:

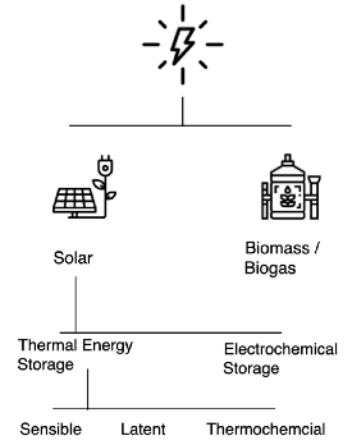
- After 2-3 months of storing, farmers were able fetch **3-5 times more price for tubers in the off-season.**
- **Wastage of tubers reduced from 35% to 5%**
- **Total increase in income was INR 100,000 per year**
- Opportunities to sell during **Tuber Mela** organized in the region every year



# Agriculture | Solar Powered Cold Storage Units

## Challenges:

- Voltage fluctuations,
- Unreliability,
- High diesel/ alternative fuel costs,
- Competitive with high commercial grid costs (3-8 years)
- COVID cases: Resilience building and criticality of decentralization



Nodal Point

Cold Storage

Transportation

Negative

Positive

Positive

Short Term

Long Term

Short Term

Long Term

Short Term

Shelf Life

Micro  
< 2 MT

Small  
2 - 5 MT

Medium  
5 - 10 MT

Small  
1 - 5 MT

Medium  
5 - 10 MT

Size

Single Chamber

Multi-Chamber

Technology Innovation

Unlocking Barriers to Access and Scale

Technology Innovation

# Agriculture | Commodity Specific Cooling Solutions

There are several factors that influence the choice of cooling solution and the energy requirements:

- **Temperature to be Maintained:** Each commodity has a specific shelf life and temperature requirement- not maintaining that can result in loss of produce, or chilling injuries (also resulting in loss)
- **Commodity Stored:** Decentralised cold storage units usually are used for multiple commodities- multiple chambers or treatment of vegetables and fruits may be required
- **Nodal Point in the Value Chain:** Farm Storage, Bulk Storage, Storage of processed food items- all have different cooling requirements
- **Relative Humidity:** This is an important feature to be maintained in addition to temperature for several commodities
- **Duration of Storage:** Primarily determines the energy requirement- influencing the number of door openings
- **Occupancy and Heating Load:** In some cases, heat generating appliances / activities, or heat generation due to number of humans occupying the space may also determine the cooling load



## Custard Apple | Value Chain

Ripening Chamber

Temperature: 20 - 25°C

Hardener

Temperature: Negative 35°C

Deep Freezer

Temperature: Negative 22°C



## Potato | Value Chain

Seed Potato

Temperature: 2 - 4°C  
Relative Humidity: 90 - 95%  
Shelf Life: 6 - 8 Months

Table Potato

Temperature: 18°C  
Relative Humidity: 50 - 80%  
Shelf Life: 45 days

Table Potato

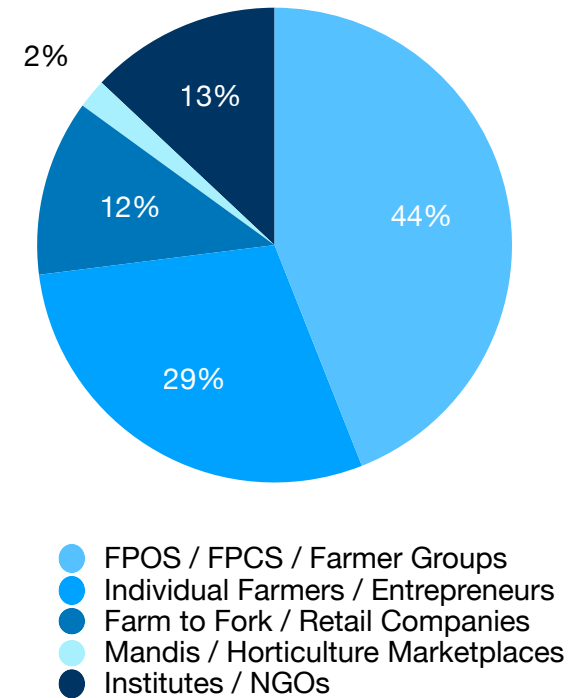
Temperature: 10 - 12°C  
Relative Humidity: 90 - 95%  
Shelf Life: 9 - 10 Months



# Ownership and Financial Models

## Snapshot of Solutions

End User	Financing Model	Technology Providers
FPOs / FPCs / SHGs Institutes Local Retail Businesses Local Government Private Companies Individual Farmer / Entrepreneur	<p><b>Sales Model</b>                      Lease to Own                      NGO finances/owned                      Long term bank financing                      Government financed                      Pvt Company owned                      Institution/FPO/Farmer Self                      financing</p> <p><b>Service Model</b>                      Pay as you store or Cooling                      as a Service</p>	CoolCrop Ecozen Pluss Inficold New Leaf Dynamics Solar Cool Tech Promethean Inspira Farms Cold Hubs Solar Freeze Black Stump



End user segmentation data across 340 units

Very Poor		Poor		Low Income	
Infrastructure support	+ Finance	Infrastructure support	+ Finance	Infrastructure support	+ Finance
100%	+ 1 year ops	30%-70%	8-10 yr	0%	5-8 yr
100%	op ex sust.	0%-30%	3-5 yr	0%	3-5 yr
70-80%	5 yr	0%	2 y mor, 5 yr	0%	Self

# Decentralised Cold Storage in Odisha

## Solution:

Farmer Producer Organization : Markoma Women Farmer Producer Company



Typical farm collection and storage systems, creating waste at all levels of the supply chain.



Availability of all vegetables in every season was also not possible because of **non-feasibility in producing crops round the year** in this area.



**Storing and selling of vegetables** were commercially **not feasible** because of **non-availability of cold storage** in Bissamcuttack area.



Farmers **started selling their vegetables to farther markets** because of comparatively lower prices in the local markets. However, **sending vegetables to large markets of cities during the peak production time was a challenging task** for the local farmers.



**Traditional method of storing** for highly perishable **commodities like vegetables is not suitable.**

Owned by a Women Led Farmer Producer Organization - 400 farmers

Decentralised Cold Storage- Savings in Transaction Costs for the Farmers

Established contracts with vendors for improved pricing



Unlocking Financing NABARD Infrastructure Fund, State Livelihood Mission



Practitioner Consortiums, Regulatory Mechanisms, Training Programs for Cold Storage Management

340 (30 Directly via SF) cold storage units- commodities, terrains, ownership models and financing models

Creating Consortiums for Sector wide Practitioner Representation and Advocacy



## Solutions | Cooling for Productivity Improvement

Temperature across the Karnataka region has been increasing significantly at 95%. Increase in temperatures also have a profound effect on the living conditions of the poor and the related services administered to them. Small dwellings with tin sheets roofs increase the indoor temperature by more than 3-4 degrees. In hotter regions, when the outside temperature is 39-40 degrees Celsius the in-house temperature is at-least 43-44 degrees due to RH levels ranging in 30 to 60%. These conditions make it very dangerous of the poor to live or conduct any sort of livelihood activities.

The low-income group communities in Dharwad are generally observed **using tin or asbestos roofing sheets as their shed infrastructure for livelihood spaces** due to easy availability and low capital costs for construction. These building materials especially in hot and arid climate zones, like North Karnataka, where the **max temperature recorded goes as high as 35°C, the the inner surface temperature of these metal sheets was observed to rise upto 50°C.**

Additionally, the communities were too **poor to invest in active measures of cooling.** The demands for energy were high yet unreliable with **livelihoods like snack making, flour milling and petty shops.**





## Solutions | Cooling for Productivity Improvement



### Cooling for Livelihoods which use Kilns, Furnaces and Forges:

- Blacksmithy
- Pottery
- Restaurants and Canteens
- Snack Making (Chips, Puffed Rice, Sweet Meat etc)
- Street Vendors

### Optimization of Cooling also leads to:

- Improvement in Productivity
- Savings, Reduced energy consumption and future energy security
- Improvement in well-being - aspirational livelihoods

Cooling is one of the major concerns in building tropical houses. This problem is exacerbated by the **heat gain of the roof, which constitutes 70% of the total heat gain.\***

*\*"Passive cooling techniques through reflective and radiative roofs in tropical houses in Southeast Asia: A literature review" (2014) Karam M.Al-Obaidi, Mazran Ismail, Abdul Malek Abdul Rahman*



**This May, the temperature in Bidar peaked at 43°C.**

At that time, due to the heat gain caused inside structures built using inefficient materials and design, **the temperature inside the house would be 49°C.** The felt temperature may be higher due to the high density in most of the low income households. **With adequate thermal insulation using passive technologies, this temperature can be reduced to 39°C.**



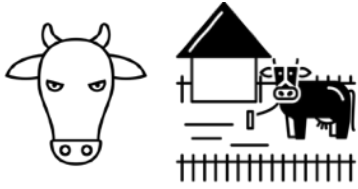
*BEFORE: Indoor Temperature was recorded **6°C higher** than outdoor temperature*



*AFTER: Indoor Temperature was recorded **4°C lower** than outdoor temperature. **This has resulted in an over 10°C difference in the indoor temperature for the family from the older house to the new house.***

## Solutions | Livelihood: Animal Husbandry

### Gaps and Needs : Cooling for Dairy Farms



Behavioural restrictions associated with the use of tie-stall systems



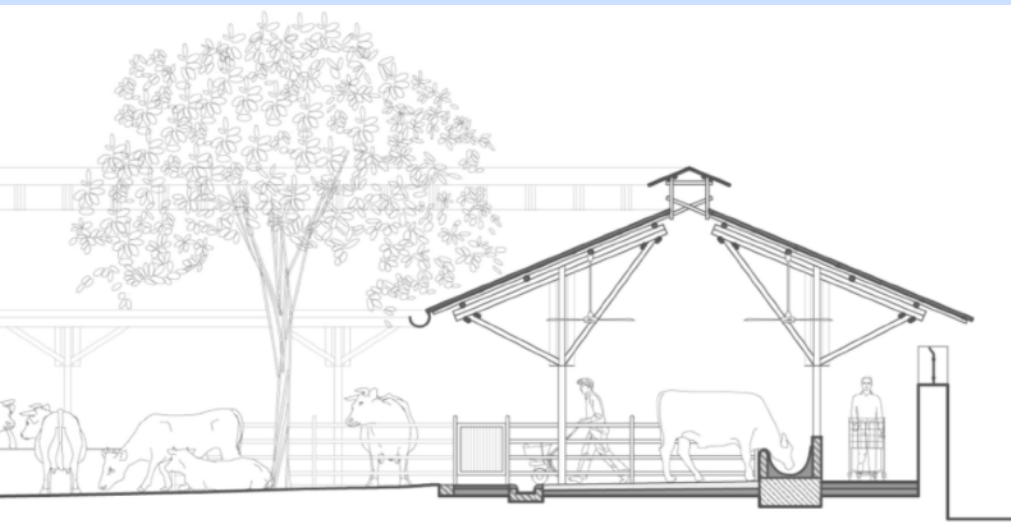
Heat stress affects cattle

- Reduction in fertility & calving rates
- Low milk components
- Susceptibility to infection



Limited access to water, quality feed and fodder leads to inappropriate consumption of feed and affects protein levels in the cows

### Design Guidelines for Improved Cooling and Thermal Comfort



Orientation of the Building - Longer facades of the cow shed to face the North South direction to reduce heat gain.

Dominant wind direction to be used to allow maximum natural ventilation



All Roofing materials to be insulated to avoid heat build up during harsh summer days and nights  
Overhangs and shading to be provided at 3-4ft outside the shed



# Solutions | Livelihood: Animal Husbandry

## Poultry Farms

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
28	32	37	41	43	38	32	31	32	31	30	28

High Mortality Rate and Poor FCR

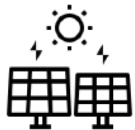
Cooler	Turbo Ventilators	Cool roof paint, insulation and turbo ventilation	Full cool shed semi open	Full cool shed climate controlled
<b>Incremental</b>			<b>New- built from scratch</b>	



### Improving Immunization



Ensuring the cold chain to prevent chick mortality due to vaccination failure.



Fully off grid model to ensure zero vaccination damage due to uninterrupted power supply.

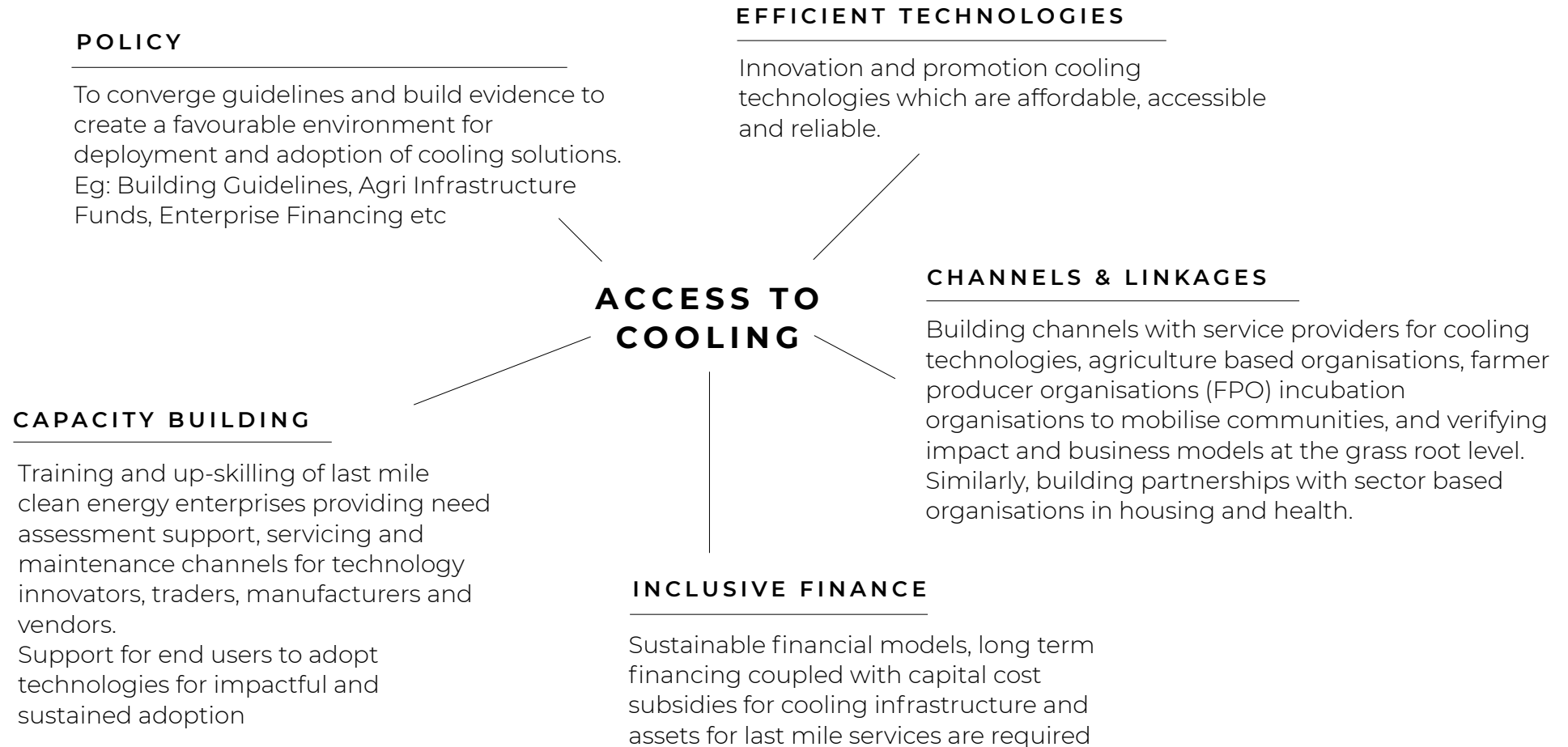


Increasing efficiency and wide coverage of vaccination due to storage facility.



# Ecosystem for Improved Cooling Solutions via SDG7

## Poverty and the Burden of Cooling: Creating Sustainable Energy Ecosystems to Catalyse Innovations and Reduce Inequality



# **SELCO** Foundation

## Goal in 3 Years | **2021 - 2024**

Innovation and Scale of Sustainable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Green Built Environments in Cooling Solutions for Vulnerable Communities

- Map out the complete eco-system required for the poor and their related services that need cooling
- Implement in at least 10 typographies different cooling related applications (Impacting 6000+ families)
- To document delivery, finance and dissemination models for each of the above interventions
- To document and share learnings while providing capacity building on best practices
- To pursue and implement at least three policy level interventions with relevant stakeholders (e.g. local governments, housing departments, rural infrastructure schemes)
- To institutionalize cooling concepts in 15 organizations working in the fields of livelihoods, housing, energy and disaster



# Access to Cooling, Climate Change and Energy Poverty

## SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth):

- A smallholder farmer, will often lose at least 15% of his or her income due to food loss while harvesting and storing produce.
- Clean cold chains would strengthen the food supply by reducing post harvest food loss. This would reduce hunger and food insecurity by increasing the volume, quality and nutritional value of food reaching the market, and by reducing food prices and poverty.

## SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being):

- 2 million people die from preventable diseases due to damaged or degraded vaccines that were improperly refrigerated and did not follow protocols while in transit.
- India's National Disaster Management Authority reported that the number of Indian states hit by heat waves had grown to 19 in 2018 from nine in 2015, and was expected to reach 23 in 2019.<sup>2</sup>

## SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure):

- India would need to build 70,000 pack-houses, an additional 53,000 refrigerated vehicles – five times its current fleet
- India would need 3 million tonnes of additional cold storage and distribution hubs simply to catch up with current levels of food production and demand – never mind satisfy future growth.<sup>6</sup>

## SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities):

- Efficiency benchmarks are not implemented or accessible to the poor or under-resourced regions.
- A lot of the infrastructure being built is done informally in cities, resulting in long term climate risks.

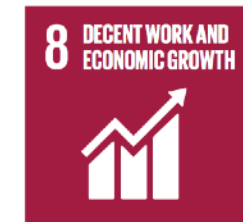
## SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action):

- Cooling is already a major and growing emitter: one estimate suggests refrigeration and air conditioning cause 10% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions<sup>3</sup>
- Cooling emissions currently account for 7% of the total, but are growing three times faster, so cooling's share will almost double to 13% by 2030.<sup>5</sup>



## ACCESS TO COOLING

Access to cooling is linked to achievement of multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



**An inclusive approach, using Sustainable Energy (SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy) as a catalyst could also ensure that these goals are achieved to also ensure that two of the major threats of our times are tackled - Climate Change and Inequality.**