



CLIMATE PROTECTION PROJECT



India,  
State of Uttarakhand,  
Nainital

## Protecting the climate and tigers with Fairtrade rice

Organic farmers who produce rice for Coop can obtain a biogas system. This reduces greenhouse gases and conflict with tigers.

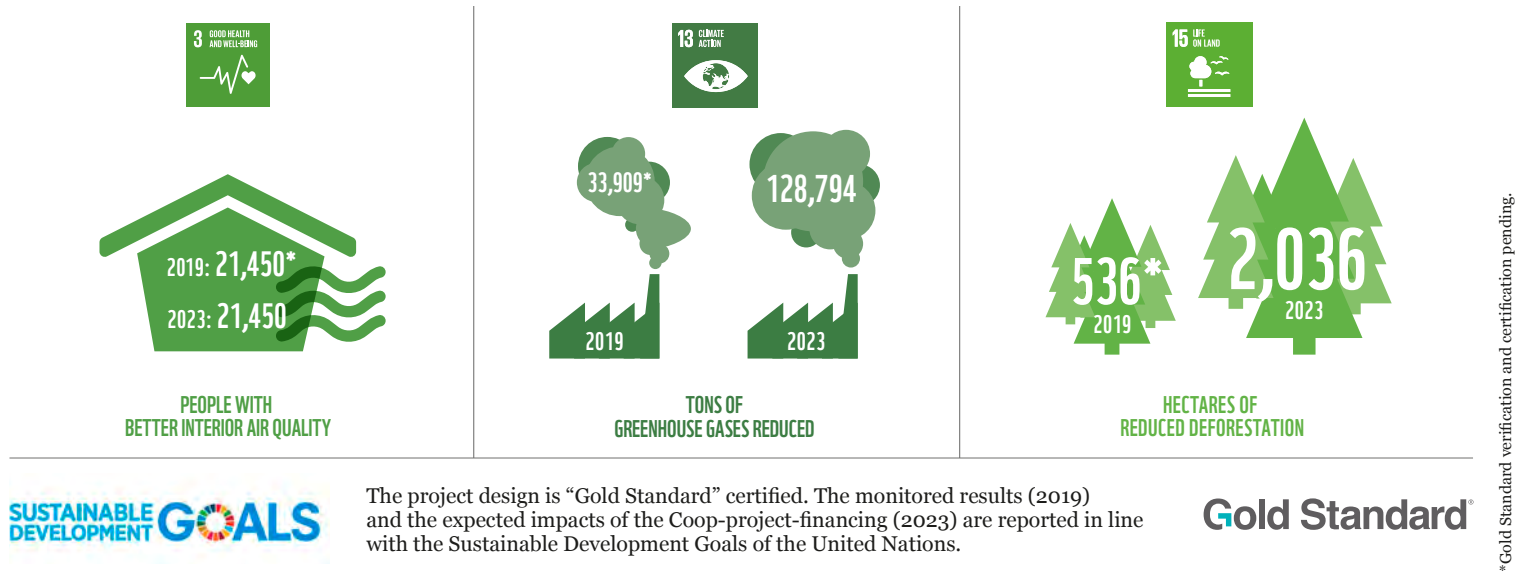
Coop-project-financing: 2017–2023

Coop is providing funding for 3,900 small-scale organic basmati rice farmers to enable them to build biogas plants and cook with gas stoves instead of over an open fire. So far, the project has saved 39,150 tons of wood, protecting 536 hectares of forest from deforestation and reducing over 30,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. 21,450 people benefit from the fact that their rooms are no longer full of smoke. Women no longer have to collect wood, forests are saved from deforestation, and the habitat of tigers is protected.

Technical partner



March 2020 | [wwf.ch/insetting](http://wwf.ch/insetting)



## Context

In the region of Nainital in northern India, people cook with wood they collect themselves from the forests of the nearby national park. Women spend an average of four to five hours collecting firewood every day. This has led to conflicts with the tigers that live there.

In this area, Coop, Reismühle Brunnen, and Helvetas have established a supply chain for organic and Fairtrade basmati rice. The environment benefits from soil- and water-friendly cultivation of the rice, and small-scale farmers earn a higher income thanks to Fairtrade.

## Project

Thanks to Coop's financing, 3,900 smallholder farmers were able to build biogas plants by the end of 2019, which they could not have afforded to do otherwise. Only women are allowed to buy plants. This helps to equalize the balance of power in the family and strengthen the position of women. They fill the biogas plants with cow manure and kitchen wastewater, then use the biogas produced by fermentation to cook, and the compost as organic fertilizer. The project is implemented by WWF, Helvetas, myclimate, and the local NGO "Partners in Prosperity". Over 600 people have been trained in operating biogas plants, and seven permanent jobs have been created.

## Impacts and project benefits

Cooking with biogas instead of wood reduces deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions and protects the habitat of the endangered tigers. Women and children are no longer exposed to unhealthy smoke, and they no longer have to collect wood and cut down trees. This leads to fewer dangerous encounters with tigers. The biological fertilizer from the biogas plant improves harvests and ensures that small-scale farmers are not dependent on chemical fertilizers. This has a positive effect on the agricultural land and the financial situation of the farming families.

**This pioneering project reduces greenhouse gases directly in Coop's supply chain.**



**"I'm very happy since I have biogas. The kitchen is no longer full of soot and I don't have to walk kilometers every day to find firewood."**

Uma Mayal (far left), organic rice farmer, says how the project has improved her life.

Official project name: Biogas project, Uttarakhand, India | Gold Standard link: [registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/666](https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/666) | GS ID: 3906 | Issuing credits: GS VERs | Project partners: Coop, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, myclimate, Partners in Prosperity, WWF | Video link: German: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YdRO23xCLF4> | Video link: English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXKKyc8MRfw>



### Our Mission

Together, we protect the environment and create a future worth living for generations to come.

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