

Session Summary

The World Bank organized a side event on "Championing Sustainable Cooling in India: Strategies for Enacting the ICAP Vision" on October 24, 2023, during MOP35. The primary goal of this event was to discuss different implementation modalities of the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) and deliberate upon the critical components necessary for shaping an effective governance model to enhance the ICAP's impact.

Key discussions from the distinguished panelists at national and sub-national levels culminated into four central themes:

1. **Governance Structure for Implementation:** The session underscored the Indian government's proactive adoption of ICAP's recommendations, emphasizing the need for a coordinated approach across executing ministries. This entails setting clear targets, defining roles, assigning responsibilities, and ensuring resource allocation to states and urban local bodies (ULBs) throughout the implementation phases.
2. **Financial Instruments:** The dialogue highlighted the crucial role of financial tools in transitioning towards energy-efficient cooling solutions across various sectors and implementing design and construction practices that alleviate heat stress. Catalysing market transformation requires leveraging private finance to mitigate investment risks in the cooling sector and decrease upfront financing costs.
3. **Involving the sub-national governments:** The importance of state governments in localizing and implementing ICAP recommendations was discussed, with emphasis on providing financial incentives, budgetary support, and sector-specific targets to encourage tailored approaches at the grassroots level.
4. **Community Outreach:** Addressing the limited public awareness about the benefits of energy-efficient appliances, the panelists advocated for community outreach programs. These programs aim to educate the public on sustainable cooling technologies, efficient appliance use, and the advantages of sustainable building and urban planning, fostering behavioral change and market transformation.

In closing, the panel unanimously concurred that a holistic policy approach encompassing the above-mentioned considerations holds the key to expediting ICAP's implementation and achieving its set targets. Such an integrated strategy is paramount for realizing the vision of sustainable cooling in India.