



# Just transition and SDGs: Tools and Enablers

## Enabling a 'SDG centric' just energy transition in India

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# INDGREEN PROJECT

- Cooperation between CICERO Center for International Climate Research in Oslo and TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI SAS)
- Overarching aim: Understanding India's ambitions and possibilities of becoming a global green leader
- Two main research areas
  - India's role and ambitions in international climate governance
  - **Trade-offs and synergies between SDGs and India's energy transition**



# Clean Energy Transition and SDGs

- Clean energy transition, from fossil fuels to renewable energy, is not just critical for decarbonization, but is also rooted in the SDGs (SDG 7)
- This transition to renewable energy is not just technological, but has important **economic, social and political implications**
- As SDGs are interconnected, there are many co-benefits but there are also **important trade-offs**
- A just transition is needed to enhance synergies and manage trade-offs with SDGs, especially at **local-level**
- There is a need for **holistic interpretation of just transition** to include more dimensions

# Energy Transition in India amidst inequalities

## Renewable expansion targets

- 500GW renewable energy capacity till 2030 (280GW of solar)
- 50% installed capacity of non-fossil fuel by 2030
- Net zero by 2070

## State of Inequality

- India is the third-largest energy user in the world, but traditional energy 80% of the country's needs (IEA, IRENA,2021)
- The acute energy poverty in India, which affects all social groups but more pronounced among the lower classes

# (In)equality: a focal point to study SDG linkages

- Reducing inequality is a significant component of both just transition and sustainability
- It is important to understand the inequality implications of solar energy expansion, which are currently understudied
- An inequality perspective to view the linkages can help in integrating the two agendas- also at local level



# Synergies and Trade-offs with SDGs: An (in)equality lens

## Utility scale solar projects:

- Loss of traditional livelihood
- Limited employment generation
- Lack of representation of marginalised
- No compensation for landless
- Lack of water access in villages
- No increase in energy access



# Synergies and Trade-offs with SDGs: An (in)equality lens

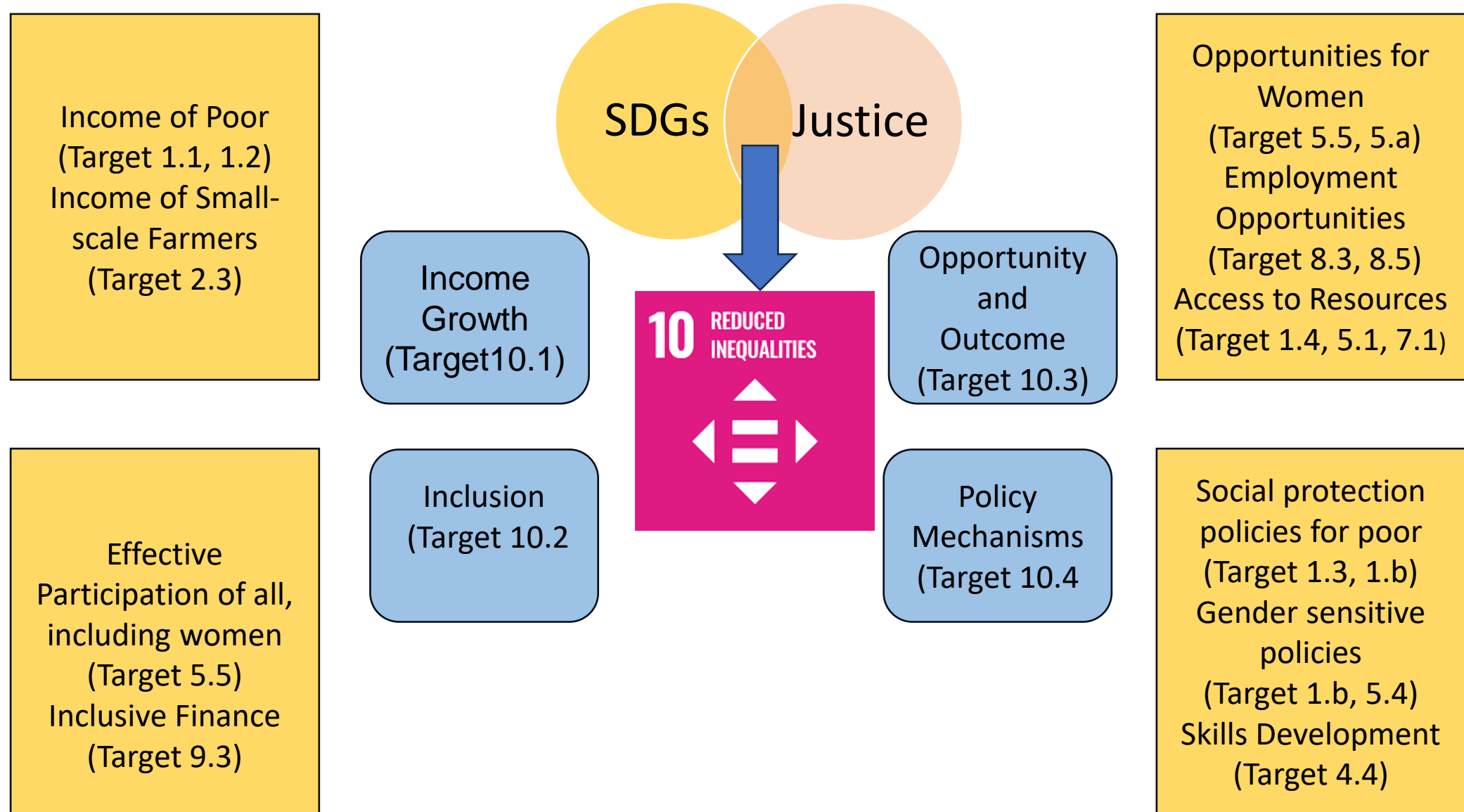
## Decentralised solar projects

- Exclusion of non-landowners
- Loss of traditional jobs
- Gendered impacts of energy access and employment
- Design of policies favours large scale farmers

**Structural barriers:** lack of land ownership and control, societal norms, traditional responsibilities



# Just transition-Inequality-SDG Framework





# Key messages

- Just energy transition in India can act as an opportunity to fulfil both climate and development goals
- The understanding of just transition should be expanded to include other SDG dimensions
- It is crucial to understand inequality implications of the transition and structural inequalities that can act as barriers.
- Policies should be made from a holistic perspective- justice and sustainability lens. Their should be mechanisms that support income growth, inclusion, and equality of opportunity. **These can acts as capability enablers for just transition at local level**

THANK YOU