

INDIA OCCUPIES TOP SPOT GLOBALLY IN EMISSIONS RELATED TO CROP BURNING, SAYS REPORT

Relevant for: Environment | Topic: Environmental Degradation - GHGs, Ozone Depletion and Climate Change

Farmers burn straw stubble after harvesting a paddy crop in Amritsar. Photo used for representation purpose only. | Photo Credit: [AFP](#)

India is ranked at the top in emissions related to crop burning, accounting for 13% of total global emissions for the 2015-2020 period, according to a new report released by climate tech startup Blue Sky Analytics, which is also part of global coalition "Climate TRACE".

Blue Sky Analytics, the Indian climate tech startup founded by an IIT alumnus, also pointed towards a 12.2% contribution by India to cropland fire emissions in 2020.

The data in the report reveals new insights into recent trends in biomass fires, including emissions from forest and crop residue fires in India. For example, the data verifies the downward trend in crop fires being observed between 2016 and 2019, citing a reduction in the GHG emissions due to cropland fires by 11.39% in the said period.

However, it also points to an increase in emissions by 12.8% in 2019-20, increasing India's global contribution to 12.2%.

Climate TRACE is a global coalition with a mission to accelerate climate action by providing independent high-resolution and near-real-time (GHG) emissions data. Its innovative approach fills critical knowledge gaps for all countries that rely on the patchwork system of self-reporting that currently serves as the basis for most existing emissions inventories.

"For effective climate action, it is essential to have an independent, system-level view of emissions. This is especially critical for sources like fires, which are rapidly increasing in frequency and scale, but whose emissions are still poorly tracked and accounted for in most multi-sector inventories," said Abhilasha Purwar, an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) alumnus and the founder and CEO of Blue Sky Analytics.

The emissions estimates from Blue Sky Analytics cover both fires caused by human activities, including burning in forest areas for conversion to agricultural land or of crop residues and wildfire activity, producing a comprehensive picture of fire emissions.

By combining multiple satellite data sources for active fire identification and characteristics with higher resolution global land cover maps, these estimates supplement the existing country-level reporting methods, which rely primarily on seasonal estimations and ground measurements of the burned area.

"For far too long, climate action has been hindered by a lack of independent, verifiable data on emissions. Climate TRACE is built on the notion that we can only manage what we can measure," explained former US vice-president and Climate TRACE coalition convening member Al Gore.

"We are helping to create a level-playing field for everyone who wants to take an active role in reducing emissions -- from government ministers and regulators to investors and business leaders to journalists and citizen activists. This new era of radical transparency will put

everything out into the open,” he said.

[Our code of editorial values](#)

Environment Ministry told the SC earlier this month that 7 hydroelectric power projects can go ahead

END

Downloaded from **crackIAS.com**

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

CrackIAS.com