

Mr. (Dr.) Harish Hande

Co-founder and Managing Director, SELCO-India

Dr. Harish Hande is an engineer and a renewable energy entrepreneur with extensive grassroots experience in meeting the energy requirements of rural households. He is the co-founder of SELCO-India of which he is the Managing Director. SELCO-India is a rural energy service based out of Bangalore, India which has installed over 95,000 solar lighting systems in rural households since 1995.

His experience also includes a large number of health, education and water related projects: over 500 small rural and urban health clinics, over 1000 rural and semi-urban schools and dormitories, and over 1500 irrigation and drinking water systems.

Dr. Hande earned his Doctorate in energy engineering (solar specialty) at the University of Massachusetts (Lowell). He has an undergraduate degree in Energy Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur. Dr. Hande serves on the boards of many organizations, both national and international.

Dr. Hande received the world's leading green energy award in 2005. In 2007 SELCO INDIA won the Outstanding Achievement Award from Ashden Awards. Dr. Harish Hande was named the Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2007 by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and the Nand & Jeet Khemka Foundation. In 2008, he was chosen by Business Today as one of the 21 young leaders for India's 21st century. In mid 2008, India Today named him one of the 50 pioneers of change in India.