

ADVOCATING FOR UPSCALING FOR LOCAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AS “ECO-VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT” AS A MEAN TO STRENGTHEN PRO-POOR CLIMATE AGENDA IN SOUTH ASIA

REPORT ON

**INITIATION MEETING WITH BETHANCHOK RURAL MUNICIPALITY,
KAVRE**



Organized by



Supporting Partners



Date: 2017/10/31

Background

Global climate change and continued poverty are probably the two largest, long-term challenges for human development. Both issues have been addressed in recent international agreements, respectively in the UNFCCC Paris Climate Agreement and agreement on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both agreed in 2015. Now, the key issue is how to reduce these global problems during the implementation phase of these agreements, where regional and national strategies and actions, as well as financing are crucial. As a densely populated and fast growing region, but still with a large part of the population living in poverty, development of South Asia is strongly linked with these two global issues. It is expected that South Asia's emerging economies will bring an increase in living standards for many people in the region. However, with emerging economies and expanding populace, greenhouse gas emissions will increase along with the advanced consumerism of the emerging, primarily urban, middle class, and technological development of industries, while the development tends to leave large parts of the rural population in poverty. The two challenges of poverty and climate change can be addressed with one set of solutions, as we in the EVD project are doing with the locally-based eco-village development concept and solutions, and as we propose to further promote and scale-up in this new project application.

After the successful implementation of *Evidence Based Advocacy for Low-Carbon Pro-Poor Sustainable Eco Village Development in South Asia* (EVD) project (2015-2017), with support from same partners Civil Society in Development (CISU), coordinated by Danish International Human Settlement Services (DIB) and International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE), Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) has initiated project ***“Advocating for up scaling for local climate solutions as Eco Village Development as a mean to strengthen pro-poor climate agenda in South Asia”*** from September 2017.

The EVD concept combines a number of solutions for poverty reduction within sustainable energy, water management, agriculture and housing. The solutions have all proven successful individually, and in several cases also together, as promoted in the EVD project. Combined, they can provide the energy and resources needed for a development out of poverty for rural villages with minimal greenhouse emissions, giving a prosperous vision for the future of rural villages. Individually, the solutions can provide for instance cleaner cooking, light or better gardening. Together they can fulfill basic needs and provide energy and resources for increased income generation. The solutions are not just technologies, they also include the training and support for permanent use and maintenance as well as other frameworks such as funding mechanisms, in order to have a long-term progression of living standards in a sustainable way.

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen development for reducing poverty in ways that limit greenhouse gas emissions (mitigate climate change) and adapt to climate change in South Asia by better including local climate mitigation and adaptation solutions in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and relevant SDGs, and as well as in proposals from South Asia for international negotiations such as within the UNFCCC.

The experience from phase 1 shows that for successful implementation and smooth conduction of project activities, coordination and cooperation with the local government and local partners are important. Hence, in this context CRT/N organized half day meeting with the representatives of Bethanchok Rural Municipality on October 31, 2017 at their office.

Objective

The objective of the meeting were as follow:

1. To share the project activities from phase 2
2. To get feedback from the participants
3. Discuss on the role and responsibilities of CRT/N, Bethanchok Rural Municipality (BRM) and local partner
4. Discuss on the contract with BRM
5. Initiate a dialog for scaling up proposal

Proceeding of the meeting

Mr. Subas Lamichane, Program Officer, CRT/N welcomed and thanked all participants for attending the meeting. He then shared the objective of the meeting and plan for the half day meeting. Along with him, Ms. Shovana Maharjan, Program Officer, CRT/N briefed about the activities of EVD phase 2 and expectation of CRT/N for collaboration with Bethanchok Rural Municipality to conduct the project activities together.

Mr. Hari Gopal Gorkhali, Sr. Director, CRT/N talked about the necessity of inter village demonstration program, where the success story of one village can be a knowledge source for other and they can be motivated to carry out similar environment friendly activities that not only help in climate change mitigation and adaptation work but also will play important role in enhancing livelihood of the villagers. Hence, we proposed for the collaboration with the Bethanchok Rural Municipality and other potential organizations working in same area to implement Phase 2 activities.



Similarly Mr. Lumin Kumar Shrestha, Advisor, CRT/N emphasized for the collaboration, with which CRT/N and local government can tap opportunities replicate this work to other part of the Bethanchok Rural Municipality as well. He also conveyed that development never ends; hence there is always possibilities of technological innovation in the village for the betterment of people, even after the project.

Mr. Prem Bahadur Shrestha Chairman of Bethanchok Rural Municipality thanked CRT/N and accepted the offer of collaboration. He suggested some of the environmental friendly capacity building activities that are suited in the area. He emphasized the activities related to the agro-based enterprise, livestock and health and livelihood of the people. He informed that for sustainability of the program, people could be trained on activities like Bee Keeping, because if we can encourage bee keeping in every house, then people will be forced to practice environmental friendly activities, and will be discouraged to use chemical pesticides and fertilizer, adopt organic farming. Similarly, he also suggested that activities like cowshed management, sanitation program are very effective and can be continued in next phase too. He emphasized that sustainability of program can be only achieved if there is an investment from people. Lastly, he suggested developing training package on enterprise development and market linkage.

Conclusion

Meeting was concluded with a decision that Bethanchok Rural Municipality will collaborate with CRT/N to implement the EVD Phase 2. For which CRT/N will develop TOR and contract for Bethanchok Rural Municipality. Also CRT/N will initiate developing proposal to upscale the EVD program to other areas of Bethanchok Rural Municipality with partnership of them.

Annex1: Program Schedule

| Time | Activities | Responsible Person |
|--------------|--|--|
| 11:00-11:05 | Introduction | All |
| 11:05-11:15 | Welcome and Objective of meeting | Subas Lamichane, PO, CRT/N |
| 11:15-11:45 | Presentation of Phase 2 activities | Shovana Maharjan, Subas Lamichane, PO, CRT/N |
| 11:45- 12:30 | Feedback Collection and discussion | All |
| 12:30- 12:40 | Discussion on joint proposal for upscaling | CRT/N |
| 12:40-12:50 | Closing Remarks | Chairman, BRM |
| 12:50-13:00 | Vote of Thanks | Sr. Director, CRT/N |

Annex 2: Participants

| S.N | Name | Address/Organization | Designation | Contact No. |
|-----|-----------------------|---|-------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Lumin Kumar Shrestha | Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal | Advisor | |
| 2 | Hari Gopal Gorkhali | Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal | Sr. Director | 9841228098 |
| 3 | Ram Hari Timilsina | Ladku Chanaute User Committee | Treasurer | 9870069482 |
| 4 | Tul Prasad Dahal | Gahu Bali Beej Bridhhi Samuha, Chyamranbesi | Chairman | 9866877353 |
| 5 | Bir Bahadur Tamang | Shree Ganesh Paurakhi Krisak Samuha, Chalal | Chairman | 9813086508 |
| 6 | Ram Hari Shrestha | GOA | Secretary | 9851130805 |
| 7 | Tek Raj Acharya | Bethanchok Rural Municipality | Executive Officer | 985115421 |
| 8 | Sarita Lamichane | Bethanchok Rural Municipality | Vice Chairman | 9841447532 |
| 9 | Prem Bahadur Shrestha | Bethanchok Rural Municipality | Chairman | 9851099511 |
| 10 | Shovana Maharjan | Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal | Program Officer | 9841458322 |
| 11 | Subas Lamichane | Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal | Program Officer | 9849469546 |