The International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) is a network of more than 140 NGOs that are working for sustainable energy solutions to protect the environment and reduce poverty. The CRT/N organized an INFORSE Nepal Consultative meeting under the EVD project activity on June 1, 2018 with the objective of reviving the network, collectively strengthening it through a creation of a "knowledge platform" and facilitate in the development and transfer of technologies, appropriate to rural and village development. Stakeholders representing Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and few international service organizations participated in the programme. The programme provided the platform for all the concerned stakeholders to share their few past project activities, experiences and discuss on the way forward to strengthen the INFORSE Nepal network collectively.

After this meeting, three new organizations: MinErgy, National Association of Community Electricity Users-Nepal (NACEUN) and Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) have become the members of INFORSE.
SWC monitoring team led by Ms. Bhagawati Sangraula, Acting Director along with Mr. Sundar Shyam Shrestha, Nayab Subba accompanied by Mr. Shyam Kumar Rai, Deputy Director from CRT/N visited headquarter of Dhading district, one out of six working districts of Energy: Empowering Women Uplifting Lives (Advocacy Project) from March 30-31, 2018. The objective of SWC, behind this visit was to monitor the field level activities of the advocacy project. In the field SWC research team; interacted with local stakeholders to better understand the needs and relativity of Project as per the local needs, talked with woman entrepreneur trained from the projects and also interacted with the beneficiaries.

On May 12, 2018 the same team of SWC accompanied by Dr Indira Shakya and Mr Shyam Kumar Rai, CRT/N visited Chapagaun, Lalitpur which is another working area of the project, where they met resource persons of Lalitpur, Resource Center, which had developed renewable energy curriculum for classes 1-5 for the first time, in the support of advocacy project, to be implemented under this resource center. During the meeting, the officials from resource center informed SWC team about the development of renewable energy curriculum, its implementation and the role of advocacy project. The SWC team provided their valuable recommendations and feedbacks after the visit.

Similarly, another team of SWC led by Mr. Ram Raj Bhattarai, Deputy Director and Mr. Krishna Man Singh, Nayab Subba) accompanied by Dr Purushottam Shrestha, Director, CRT/N visited Kailali District on March 8-10, 2018 for Monitoring & Evaluation of research study on Gender and Energy Research Programme (Political Economy) Where they interacted with Community Rural Electrification Entity (CREE) Shukhad, Mothers Group, Key informant persons, also did household survey enumerators and respondents. After the visit they recommend to share findings with government policy makers related with gender and energy.

Dr Indira Shakya from Gender and Energy Research Programme (Political Economy) participated in the above mentioned conference in Sydney, Australia on June 13-16 2018, where she presented a paper on Energy, Gender and Inequality Stream. During her presentation, she highlighted about the Research Program supported by ENERGIA/HIVOS, 2015-2018, the objective of that research was to conduct a rapid analysis of the Policy on Free Basic Energy and the impacts of this policy. The findings of this study will be integrated with energy policy of India and Nepal and their impacts in respective countries formed the basis of the presentation titled “Rights and Economic Empowerment: An Analysis of Gender Policies in Energy Access and Use in South Africa and South Asia.”

Dr. Kundan Pokharel from Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), government of Nepal also participated in the event, where he highlighted about the situation of Nepal with the new local governments structure. He shared the plans and activities of government of Nepal to promote renewable energy technologies in Nepal.
CRT/N organized one-day orientation programme on Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs), gender and energy nexus for local elected representatives of Bethanchok Rural Municipality on April 6, 2018 at their office. The objective of the programme was to sensitize local representatives on Renewable Energy (RE), women participation in energy usage and management, renewable energy use for household and income generation and to promote EVD concept that integrates RETs for livelihood enhancement to upscale all over Bethanchok Rural Municipality. Twenty-eight representatives from Rural Municipality and local wards participated in the programme. In the programme, CRT/N highlighted on the importance of RE technologies in EVD concept, Importance of Improved Cookstove, advocacy on women’s participation in energy-related policies. Similarly, Mr. Sundar Bahadur Khadka, Energy Officer & Acting Manager of AEPC explained about role of AEPC in new federal government, he informed that AEPC’s role is now shifted to local government. AEPC’s role will be to formulate policy and support the local government to implement the renewable energy programme. Vice Chairman, Ms. Sarita Lamichhane shared that such programme is important to learn about importance of Renewable Energy Technologies and committed that women’s role will be prioritized in energy-related works and policies. Similarly, Chairman Mr. Prem Bahadur Timilsina emphasized on collaboration with all organizations for promotion and development of RETs in their village.

Ms. Sarita Lamichhane, Vice Chairperson, Bethanchowk Rural Municipality, committed that women’s role will be prioritized in energy-related work and development.

Participation in United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC), SBI48

Ms. Shovana Maharjan CRT/N, EVD project participated in the forty-eighth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 48) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 48) as well as the fifth part of the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA 1-5) meeting held at Bonn Germany from April 29-May 5, 2018. She participated in the side event organized by INFORSE, INSEDA and SusWatch with a theme on the “Promote Local Climate Solutions to End Poverty”; Local Actions for Poverty Reduction & Village Development in NDCs & Paris Agreement Work Programme-Africa & Asia and presented on “Success with EVD in South Asia”.

Orientation Programme on EVD, Climate Change, and Environment

With a realization of, local government and other active members of the communities who can be considered as an agent of change, need to be sensitized about climate change and environmental issues and make them familiar about the problems and solutions that they can implement from their local level to tackle these problems, CRT/N organized “Orientation Programme on EVD, Climate Change, and Environment to the Agent of Change” from May 21-26 2018 at ward no 6 of Bethanchok Rural Municipality in collaboration with them. Altogether 272 people were oriented about the EVD, environment, and climate change issues. About 40 percent of the participants were female. The programme was organized in the presence of ward Chairman from each ward and other elected bodies in each ward. With this orientation and awareness programme, there is a better understanding among participants about the climate change, its impact on livelihood of people and agriculture, ways to mitigate or adapt with those impacts and most importantly the EVD concept.
The main objective of the training was to build the capacity of the community through promotion of organic farming for environmental conservation and to promote food security. The training also focused on making the community aware of practical knowledge for different local climate adaptation practices and mitigation measures to cope with the negative impacts of climate change faced by the agriculture sector. The participants were provided with skills on kitchen garden and home garden management. They were provided with the knowledge on managing their home garden and kitchen garden to help with food security.

Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) is a professional non-governmental organization engaged in developing and promoting appropriate rural technologies effective in meeting the basic needs and improving livelihood of rural people. It provides technical support and consulting services in the field of rural energy, environment conservation, climate change and GESI in energy.

Its working priority areas are: Total Access to Energy (Improved Cook Stove, Improved Water Mills, Hydram, Solar Dryer/ Cooker), Household Air Quality, Gender and Social Inclusion in Energy, Community Water Management, Climate Change (Adaptation and Mitigation), and Productive use of Energy (Employment and Income Generation) and Women-led, Energy-based Enterprise Development. CRT/N was registered under Company Act in August 1989 but later in October 1998, it was re-registered as Non-Government Organization (NGO).

Building Resilient Mountain Communities: Earthquake reconstruction in Dhungentar, Installation of Alternative Energy Technologies

CRT/N supported The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) for the installation of renewable energy technologies in Dhungentar village, Nuwakot. This project of ICIMOD focuses on supporting for the rehabilitation of 96 earthquake affected families of ICIMOD’S project area Dhugentar and Ratmate, Nuwakot district, and enhance their livelihood through support for re-construction of houses with application of feasible technologies mainly focusing on water lifting / rain water harvesting and its management for productive uses.

CRT/N’s team successfully installed some of the essential renewable energy technologies (rain water harvesting, solar dryer, parabolic solar cooker, ceramic water filter, plastic tunnel, plastic pond, drip irrigation) which were are less expensive, locally available and essential for household to make their daily work easy, supports in income generation through application of climate friendly technologies along with technical training on the installation of technology systems.

The final sharing programme was organized by ICIMOD in Nuwakot on 27 April, 2018 where Mr Ganesh Ram Shrestha, Executive Director CRT/N participated this final sharing meeting at the invitation of ICIMOD.

Training on Preparation of Organic Fertilizer and Home Made Organic Pesticides to Promote Organic Farming

CRT/N in association with Bethanchowk Rural Municipality; Dhunkharka, Kaatre and Ghatt Owners’ Association (GOA), Kaatre organized three days training on compost manure and organic fertilizers preparation at household level for the six wards of Bethanchok Rural Municipality. Agriculture expert Mr. Roshan Subedi, conducted training with both theoretical and practical knowledge to 31 participants.