Training of Trainers (ToT) to integrate EVD Concept in Local Development Plan

CRT/N under EVD (Eco-Village Development) Phase II programme carried out a TOT. The participants of the programme were all the elected representatives of Bethanchok Rural Municipality. The training aimed at supporting elected representatives of Bethanchok Rural Municipality, Kavre district to integrate Eco-village concept in their local development plan. The ToT was organized at Kathmandu from July 24-26, 2018. Twenty participants including Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Executive Officer, Ward Chairperson from each ward including other Members, Planning Officer and few active members of village participated in the training. Resource person Dr. Kamal Phuyal highlighted the importance of considering Environmental aspects in the development planning and methods, which may only result into overall development of rural municipality for long term. He also stressed the importance of participation of community people in the planning and implementation process, which is essential to identify the real need of local people and to develop feeling of ownership.
Final EVD Meeting at Sri Lanka

CRT/N Chairperson Dr. Ananda Shova Tamrakar and Project Coordinator Ms. Shovana Maharjan, EVD participated in the final meeting of EVD project held at Kandy, Sri Lanka from August 27 - September 1, 2018. Project partners from Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Denmark discussed about project outcomes, achievements, status and other agendas. Field visit was also organized by Integrated Development Association (IDEA), Sri Lanka to its project sites.

Site Visit to the EVD Project Area

CRT/N organized a site visit on February 28, 2018 to the project area of EVD (Chalal and Dhunkhark, Kavre District) to observe implementation of EVD activities. The main objective of the on-site visit to eco-village was to exhibit adoption of various EVD methods and concept by project beneficiaries as a low carbon climate adaptation and mitigation strategy for rural development to the stakeholders. The on-site visit was followed by discussion session at Bethanchok Rural Municipality Office, Dhunkharka. International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) Nepal members, media, and representatives from Bethanchok Rural Municipality, Panauti Municipality participated and observed EVD solutions and practices at Chalal and Dhunkharka.
Gender, Energy and Water Network (GEWNet) Conducted Meeting with Advisory Members

GEWNet was established in Nepal as an output of the National Consultative Workshop held in August 2002. It was initiated with support from ENERGIA, International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy where Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) hosts the Secretariat of the Network as the National Focal Point. With the changed context of the country, CRT/N, with the consultation among the members and partners, has revived and restructured this network under Green and Inclusive Energy (GIE) Programme with the support from ENERGIA/Hivos to fulfill its objectives and contribute to the sustainable and integrated rural development with on-going and upcoming initiatives. The current development discourse emphasizes the need for green and clean energy systems for ensuring inclusive and sustainable development.

In Nepal, CRT/N is working as a lead organization with policy support from the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) and in partnership with Indoor Air Pollution and Health Forum (IAPHF), Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ), Renewable Energy Confederation of Nepal (RECoN) and National Association of Community Electricity Users Nepal (NACEUN). On August 23, 2018, this network conducted meeting with the Advisory Group members with the objectives to provide introduction about GEWNet; share information on GIE programme and interact on activities identified by GEWNet under GIE programme. The programme provided the platform for all the members to provide comments/inputs on the network activities and direction for further action.
An event “Woman Entrepreneurs Festival” dedicated to supporting woman entrepreneurs was celebrated for the first time in the Sindhuli district. The event was celebrated for two whole days and was organized on the occasion of festival Teej. The festival aimed to promote woman entrepreneurs, give them the exposure and support to marketize their various products.

There were all together 15 stalls mainly: Nepali dhaka, dairy products, pickle, handmade dolls, bamboo stool, grass and seeds of grass for animals, herbal tea, tapari, improved cookstoves, mandarin products, loly pop, satu (mix powder of wheat, maize, barley and other), curtain and fiber bags. There were speakers and participation from province, state and local level. Mr Pradip Katuwal, Member of Parliament, province no 3 was the Chief Guest while Mr Khadga Bahadur Khatri, Mayor of the Kamalamai Municipality remained the Special Guest. Mr Pradip Katuwal, Member of Parliament committed to provide the necessary national and international linkage for the upliftment of business of woman entrepreneurs. The Mayor of Kamalamai Municipality seemed very supportive to the woman entrepreneurs. He promised for support to organize such event each year, engaging and promoting more woman entrepreneurs making it more successful and impactful. Mr Khatri talked to provide budget for the energy and woman entrepreneurship. Delegates from Federation of Industry, Small Cottage and other organizations had shown their necessary support.

For the first time, woman entrepreneurs came to celebrate festival Teej and the journey of women's economic empowerment together. Laxmi Giri, actress of Nepal and celebrity of GIE programme added more excitement to the participating women entrepreneurs by sharing her journey of struggle to reach the present success. Ms. Laxmi Giri also told about the use of clean energy and how woman entrepreneurs can use clean energy in their business. In the second day of event, the organizer awarded woman entrepreneurs with certificates, which lead them to work hard in further future.
The Green and Inclusive Energy (GIE) Programme, Nepal is a five-year strategic programme based on multiple partnerships, started in 2016. The GIE programme carried out an Outcome Harvesting workshop from September 16-20, 2018. The workshop was carried out for the second time. For the first time Outcome Harvesting workshop was conducted from 20-23 September, 2017. Ms. Sheila Oparaocha and Ms. Wenny Ho, from ENERGIA/Hivos the Netherland visited Nepal to facilitate the workshop. In particular, Outcome Harvesting works well when outcomes, rather than activities, are the critical focus. In addition, it is suitable for evaluating complex programming contexts. The Outcome Harvesting technique has been postulated as the principal method for monitoring the GIE programme. During the opening session Dr. Purushottam Shrestha, Senior Director, CRT/N extended very warm welcome on behalf of CRT/N for accepting the invitation to participate in the workshop.

Mr. Hari Gopal Gorkhali, Acting ED, CRT/N shared CRT/N’s extreme pleasure to have Ms Shiela and Ms Wenny, very experienced resource persons involved in the delivery of this Outcome Harvesting workshop. Mr Gorkhali wished for a very fruitful and productive meeting/session over the five days workshop days and strongly encouraged all the participants to actively engage in the various course sessions and discussions on learning the outcome harvesting statement.

Dr. Indira Shakya, Programme Manager, after the very short introduction of the entire participants, highlighted about the introduction and background of GIE programme. Dr Indira also shared the agenda of entire five days workshop. Dr. Shakya expressed her extreme happiness to have ENERGIA team to offer knowledge and experience in the workshop and expected for interesting and valuable discussions and lot of interactions between participants and facilitators during the course.

Ms. Shiela Oparacha during the opening session shared the agenda in detail and said that “all the participants to this Outcome Harvesting workshop will learn some of the key ideas and process dealing with determining outcome and how did our intervention influence the outcome, where did the change take place. This workshop will provide an interactive sessions to develop the outcome statements, revise it, finalize and review the outcome statement of 2017, comparing it against the ToC, revising ToC and assess the capacity based upon changes in ToC. In overall the course will also provide the participants with a good insight into the process of developing outcome statement that we can claim our impact.”

Ms. Wenny Ho remained the main facilitator during the entire workshop. The key points from the presentations were as follows:

- What you have set to achieve? What you have achieved and how you will justify it? is there anything missing that you don’t know? The Outcome Harvesting workshop will help you to understand the answer of these questions

- The outcome is an observable change in agenda, activity, relationships, policy or practice in another actor. And to which the programme has contributed – partially or wholly, directly or indirectly, intentionally or not.

- Addressing the questions: WHEN did the social change take place?, WHO is the social actor (understanding the social actor: individual/group/organization)?, WHAT was specifically done differently?, WHERE did the change take place?, WHY this outcome is noteworthy?, HOW did the intervention plausibly influenced the outcome?, WHAT specific activities or outputs of the intervention contributed(Does it really make the change happen)?, WHEN did this contribution take place?, WHERE did the data come from?, WHO reported the data; are the outcome and contribution statements are verifiable, is essential to develop the outcome and to make it credible.
EVD Organized National Event

CRT/N in collaboration with Bethanchok Rural Municipality organized half day “Knowledge and Experience Sharing Workshop on Eco-Village Development Concept” on September 11, 2018 in Kathmandu. The objective of the event was to share and review the activities that CRT/N has accomplished since 2015 in Bethanchok Rural Municipality of Kavrepalanchok District among its stakeholders under EVD project. The objectives of the workshop were:

- To share achievements and learnings from Eco-Village Development Programme
- To inform about the programme and policies that Bethanchok Rural Municipality has adopted for development of Eco-Village in the Rural Municipality
- To get suggestions and recommendations from stakeholders for up scaling of this concept in other area

Mr. Hari Gopal Gorkhali, Acting ED of CRT/N and Mr. Lumin Kumar Shrestha, Supervisor of EVD project welcomed the participants and thanked every individual, institutions and community people for the successful implementation of the project. Dr. Puushottam Shrestha, Senior Director facilitated the workshop and at the end, summarized the activities of workshop in brief. Mr. Subash Kumar Sharma, Section Officer, Ministry of Forest and Environment, Mr. Ram Raj Bhattarai, Deputy Director, Social Welfare Council, Mr. Raghu Ram Parajuli, Under Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment from Province no. 3 and Chairperson, vice chairperson, executive officer and ward chairperson participated in the event.

Ms. Shovana Maharjan, Project Coordinator highlighted the activities and achievements of the EVD project work. Ms. Sarita Thapa from Women’s Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) Nepal highlighted similar kind of work WOREC has been doing for uplifting livelihood of people specially women. Mr. Tek Raj Acharya, Executive Officer from Bethanchok Rural Municipality highlighted some of the policies and programmes that Bethanchok Rural Municipality has adopted in its annual plan to develop Eco-Village in the municipality.

Some of the polices adopted in Bethanchwok Municipality are:

Land use management for categorization of agriculture, mining, residential and medicinal plant area in scientific way, minimize use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides for promoting organic farming, promoting off seasonal vegetable farming under plastic tunnel with micro irrigation facility, encouraging people participation in local natural resource use and economic development. In the closing remarks Mr. Prem Bahadur Timilsina, Chairperson, Bethanchok Rural Municipality informed that they are promoting organic farming, which was initiated after consultation with CRT/N and later CRT/N organized training on preparation of organic fertilizer, composting, organic pesticides, to discourage the use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides.
“Improving Rural Livelihoods in Nepal with Pico-Hydro Electrification and Improved Water Mill” is a one year programme which started from July 2018 and will end in September 2019. The programme is supported by Siemenpuu Foundation, Finland. It will be implemented in two different rural municipalities: Nachne Village of Rautamai Rural Municipality and Himma Village of Linchungbuu Rural Municipality of Udaypur District where two units of Pico-Hydro and improved water mill system one in each village will be installed to provide the benefits to the community and improve their livelihood.

**Kick Off/Initiation Workshop**

The programme initiation workshop at district level was organized on August 14, 2018 at Gaighat, Udaypur by CRT/N in order to introduce and familiarize project, its implementation process and roles and responsibilities among potential stakeholders such as local governments-Rural Municipalities of the site, community, Local Partner Organization, District Coordination Committee and other relevant agencies at local level.

**Detailed Feasibility Study and Community Meeting Conducted**

The Detailed Feasibility Study (DFS) of the two sites of Udaypur district was conducted by hiring APEC’s pre qualified surveying consultant. The DFS was conducted following the standards and guidelines of AEPC using Medium Irrigation Project (MIP) software. The DFS comprises technical details like head, discharge of water, power output, design and drawings, costing of project, tariff structure, etc.

During the study, mass meeting was organized to sensitize community and involve them in the implementation of the project. In addition, in order to undertake the activities related to the installation of the project, Users Group representing the whole community was formed. This Users Group will be responsible for the local level mobilization of the community members for planning and decision making and operation and management of the scheme.
Field Level Activities: Green and Inclusive Energy (GIE) Nepal Programme

Held Sensitization/Awareness Programmes on RE and Gender Nexus at Rainadevi Rural Municipality (Palpa District), Chandrakot Rural Municipality (Gulmi District) and Binaya Triveni Rural Municipality (Nawalpur)

GIE programme Nepal carried out various activities to sensitize local level on RE and gender nexus. The activities involve: sensitization and consultation with local municipalities for identifying the gaps and needed interventions in the RE sector, awareness programme for Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and Community Rural Electrification Entity (CREEs), consultative meeting with MFIS for credit facilities in the sector of RE and school level awareness programme.

The objectives of these activities were to share the needs, challenges and opportunities in the RE sector, conduct campaign for clean energy and healthy homes and sensitize local representatives to understand the importance of RE and support them to integrate RE in their development plans. The sensitization programmes focused was to highlight the present status of energy for cooking lighting and other productive uses of Rural Municipality, future planning of Rural Municipality in promotion of RE/RETs, multiple uses of energy for economic and woman empowerment, discussion on present policy, scope and issues to lend credit facilities in RE sectors, possible way forward to provide credit facilities in energy or energy based business.
Orientation to School Students of RE

CRT/N oriented students from 10 different schools across six districts (Dang, Sindhupalchowk, Lalitpur, Parsa, Dhanusha and Lamjung) on September 23, 2018 at CRT/N Office, Bhanimandal. The orientation was carried out under the project, Udeshya II: Girls in STEM organized by Anuvuti International and UNESCO, initiated by Teach For Nepal Alumni. During their visit, they were oriented about different kinds of renewable energy technologies like Improved Cookstove, Hydraulic Rampump, Solar Dryer, Solar Parabolic Cooker etc.

EVD Site Monitored by External Evaluator, Prof. Dr. Avanish Kumar

Prof. Dr. Avanish Kumar from India visited two of the EVD sites Dhunkharka and Chalal as a part of monitoring and evaluation from July 13-14, 2018. EVD team accompanied his visit, where he observed different EVD solutions like plastic pond, rain water harvesting, improved water mill, hydraulic ramp pump etc. He also visited Bethanchok Rural Municipality Office and interacted with chairperson Mr. Prem Bahadur Timilsina, and other representatives about the relevance and effectiveness of the EVD project in their area.

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CRT/N E-News, Vol. 5 No. 44
July– September, 2018
Advisors: Mr. Hari Gopal Gorkhali, Acting Executive Director
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