

# Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N)

Towards Action for Development...since 1989

## E-News



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Years of Dedicatation in Improving Livelihood of Rural Communities in Nepal

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### CRT/N Awarded with Honorary Prize by Adaptation at Scale Prize Project

Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) has been awarded with "The Adaptation at Scale Prize" on May 23, 2019, in recognition for the promotion of innovative and unique Hydraulic Ram Pump technology to improve the capacity of Nepal's vulnerable communities to adapt climate change impacts. Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha, Executive Director of CRT/N received the award from Honorable Minister for Forests & Environment, Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet.

The award was presented to CRT/N in the special category of technology by "Adaptation at Scale Prize Project", under Ideas to Impact programme supported by the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID). The prize has been awarded for the scaling up and scaling out of the previously awarded "Protsahan (Encouragement) Prize" in stage I, an initiative from Kavre to Nawalparasi district reducing the vulnerabilities of Chhetritandi village of Madhyabindu Municipality-10, Gandaki Province.

The Adaptation at Scale Prize, Ideas to Impact, is managed by IMC Worldwide and Institute of Development Studies, UK with Nepal consortium partner IDS Nepal, CGED Nepal and SIAS Team.

The project has been jointly implemented by CRT/N, Local Government-Madhyabindu Municipality, Nawalparasi District and the Ward Office with the local level mobilization support from



Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha, Executive Director, CRT/N Receiving the Award from Honorable Minister for Forests & Environment, Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet

local partner organization-Himalayan Community Development Forum (HICODEF). By using Hydraulic Ram Pump technology, this project became successful to pump approximately 32,000 litres of water per day. The water pumped through this technology is being used to irrigate more than 30 hectares of land for the cultivation of vegetables and off-season cash crops. More than 300 people from 54 households are directly getting benefit from this project by opening up other opportunities through the use of water.



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## Project Updates-Green and Inclusive Energy (GIE) Programme in Nepal

GIE programme conducted five interaction meetings with Rural/Urban Municipality along with the participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Stakeholders of Sindhuli District on different dates of June 2019. The interaction meeting included brief introduction and activities of CRT/N, GIE, Gender, Water and Energy (GEWNet) and discussion sessions regarding the energy scenario in the context of Municipalities and Rural Municipalities of Sindhuli District.

The objective of the interaction was to sensitize local level government and other stakeholders on Renewable Energy and Gender and Social Inclusion. In total, 250 participants including representatives from Municipalities/ Rural Municipalities, Community Forest, Media, Financial Institutions, Private Sectors, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), Health Posts and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) participated in the various interaction meetings.

The meetings of Sindhuli were accompanied by the GIE Consortium Partner Indoor Air Pollution and Health Forum (IAPHF), where, project team of IAPHF presented regarding negative effects of Indoor Air Pollution (IAP) on the health of people and the ways for reducing it.

The Municipalities and Rural Municipalities were developing the Policy and Programme for the fiscal year 2076/77, therefore the meeting from GIE was at perfect timing. During the meetings, the representatives of Municipalities and Rural Municipalities have committed to bring GIE issues in the upcoming Policy and Programme of local level.



Ms. Niru Shrestha, Successful Entrepreneur Speaking During the Interaction Meeting at Hariharpur Gadhi Rural Municipality, Sindhuli

GIE Nepal programme is supported by ENERGIA/ Hivos the Netherlands with the policy support of Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPIC). This programme is being implemented by CRT/N as a lead organization along with partner organizations: Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ), Indoor Air Pollution and Health Forum (IAPHF), Renewable Energy Confederation of Nepal (RECoN) and National Association of Community Electricity Users Nepal (NACEUN).

## Capacity Building Training on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Social Audit

GIE programme carried out capacity building training on M&E and Social Audit from July 30- August 1, 2019, for its Consortium Partners: NACEUN, NEFEJ, RECoN, IAPHF and CRT/N. The three-day training covered the following topics:

1. Monitoring and Evaluation in General Context
2. Monitoring and Evaluation in Advocacy and Communication Programmes
3. Basics of Social Audit, its Steps, Reporting and Action Plan.

On September 2018, the workshop on "Outcome Harvesting" was conducted. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Wenny Ho, Design, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning, Green Society Programme, Hivos, supported by Ms. Shiela Oparaocha, International Coordinator and Programme Manager, ENERGIA/ Hivos. One of the major objective of the workshop was to identify the existing and required capacity for achieving the overall objective of the GIE programme in Nepal.

As an outcome, all partners came in consensus for the need of adopting M&E tools and techniques and Social Audit. As a result, to capacitate GIE Consortium on M&E and Social Audit, the training was organized. GIE is mainly an advocacy programme, therefore it is important for the entire Consortium to have knowledge on measuring/ tracking outcomes, results and impacts of GIE programme in Nepal. Additionally, it is also important to know the weakness and gaps in order to improve the effectiveness of programme in coming days. Social Audit is a process of getting feedback from stakeholders regarding social, ethical, environmental aspects of programme, it helps programme to be more transparent and accountable. At the end of the training, the participants were capacitated on the M&E process in general, M&E in Communication and Advocacy activities as well as on Social Audit.

## Interaction Programme with Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN)

CRT/N and RECoN, jointly organized an interaction programme on July 29, 2019, with NARMIN. With an efforts to make in the field of Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) promotion post the transition to federal structure, the adoption of national decisions and declarations to meet the goal of increasing affordable access to energy in the country has been highly acclaimed (ESMAP 2017, SDG Tracking Report).

CRT/N and RECoN have taken initiatives to build a testament for commitment, dedication and active participation in the work of delivering renewable energy technologies to the targeted population and to the effective functioning of the renewable energy program, planning and implementation in Rural Municipalities.

During the meeting, Ms. Menuka Kafle, Vice-Chairperson, NARMIN said that local governments have realized the importance of renewable energy, however, due to lack of expertise that they were unable to include it in the plan. Ms. Kafle told that Rural Municipalities are highly willing to work in partnership with public and private sectors regarding RET.

Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha, Executive Director, CRT/N at the programme highlighted the need of RETs and concepts like Eco-Village Development, Hydraulic Ramp Pump, and other rural technologies for improving the livelihood of rural people. Mr. Shrestha emphasized that CRT/N is looking forward to work closely with NARMIN, RECoN and Local Government for the expansion of RETs and development of Green Energy Villages for the sustainable development.

Mr. Ganesh Shah, Honorable Ex-Minister for Environment, Science and Technology highlighted the importance of 3 A's: Availability, Accessibility, and Affordability. Mr. Shah further added that in the current scenario, the local government has resource, but it lacks knowledge and technology on RET, for this, he suggested Rural Municipalities to work in collaboration with private sector-RECoN, Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology (Recast), Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST).



Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha, Executive Director, CRT/N Speaking at Interaction Programme



Ms. Paritra Tamrakar Presenting on GESI at CRT/N

## Updates- Gender, Energy and Water Network (GEWNet)

### Presentation on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategy

GEWNet managed by CRT/N organized a presentation on GESI Strategy on July 14, 2019. The presenter Ms. Paritra Tamrakar, Consultant, CRT/N who contributed from August-September 2018 to develop the GESI Strategy for GEWNet operational plan within the framework of GIE programme.

The objective of this presentation was knowledge and experience sharing among the GEWNet members on GESI issues. The presentation primarily contributed to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). She highlighted the background, methodology, gaps, framework, and recommendations for all development partners in adopting and mainstreaming GESI.

She concluded that although there are various gaps in policy, implementation, knowledge, accessibility, affordability, and participation, more collaborative joint research and investigation needs to be done for generating data on gender equity crosscutting with energy, water and food security. To integrate GESI at all levels, the following strategies that need to be adopted:

- Policy Advocacy and Institutional Provision
- Monitoring and Evaluation, Project Cycle Management

Many organizations have gradually practised GESI strategy; however, there is a need for joint commitment and internal initiation.

## Presentation on Digital Survey Process

GEWNet facilitated a presentation based on the research on Understanding Consumer Preference for Electricity Services to Support Municipal Energy Planning in Aamchowk Rural Municipality, Bhojpur District of Nepal on June 16, 2019.

Mr. Niraj Shrestha, Project Coordinator at Innovative and Sustainable Technology Solutions (ISTS) and a consultant for Nepal Micro-Hydro Development Association (NMHDA) and GIZ Nepal delivered a presentation based on his research. The presentation made an effort to evaluate the level of electricity access, electricity access deficits and their underlying causes with respect to Electricity Access Multi-Tier Framework (MTF) in Aamchowk Rural Municipality in Bhojpur district of Nepal.

Mr. Shrestha delivered presentation with the recommendation to the energy stakeholders to use of geospatial tools to locate households with rudimentary sources of electricity and light and devise policies and plan to improve their electricity access situation.



Mr. Niraj Shrestha Presenting in the GEWNet Forum at CRT/N

Gender, Energy and Water Network (GEWNet) is a loose network which was established in 2002 with an objective to establish and strengthen networking of developmental institutions/ individuals involved in energy and water network. The main objectives of this network are:

- Advocating and advising for integrating gender concerns
- Lobbying for resource mobilizations to integrate gender concerns in energy and water sectors
- Documentation and exchange of information to increase gender awareness
- Promotion of gender friendly technologies
- Sensitization and capacity enhancement of network members/ institutions on gender issues

The network is currently being supported by ENERGIA/Hivos through GIE Nepal Programme undertaken by CRT/N.

## Infographics and Photography Training



GEWNet conducted basic training on infographics and photography. The infographics training was carried from 14-22 May, 2019 with an objective to enhance the skills in the area of basic graphics and visual representation of data and information. The customized basic course was designed for 18 hours which was focused on hands-on exercise on desktop publishing and Graphic/Infographics design. The training was participated by five staff members of CRT/N and one staff member of Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ). NEFEJ is one of the partner organization of Green and Inclusive Energy (GIE) Programme.

The training was facilitated by Mr. Mahesh Shrestha, who has exceptional skills in visual arts and creative graphic design.

Similarly, GEWNet conducted another basic training course on photography to enhance the knowledge on the subject which will help in the production of quality report and presentation through better photographs. The training was facilitated by Mr. Nabin Baral who is a Kathmandu based documentary photographer. The 18 hours course organized from 15-21 July, 2019, was combined with theory and practical sessions.

Mr. Nabin Baral, Trainer of Photography Training the Participants

## TA-9334 NEP: Strengthening the Capacity of the Energy Sector to Deliver Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Results

### Kick-off Workshops at Electricity User Cooperative (EUC) Level

Out of 14 completed kick-off workshops, two were conducted during the period of May-July, 2019 in the EUCs. The primary purpose of the workshops were to on-board the full EUC executive board and local governments including other key entrepreneurial eco-system stakeholders and enhance ownership of the TA implementation activities by introducing the TA to the participants, explaining the expected outputs/outcomes as well as collecting their expectations from the TA.

### Business Orientation Workshop for Selection of Potential Women Entrepreneurs (WEs)

Till the end of July, 17 Business Orientation Workshops (Mahila Bhela) have been conducted in 12 EUCs. Objective of these orientations were for the identification and capacity assessment of women and poor households as potential entrepreneurs. The short listed WEs attended the workshop along with their family members in order to ensure their and their family members commitments. In 14 EUCs, total 1,641 applications were received, out of which 924 were short listed.

Project: TA-9334 NEP: Strengthening the Capacity of the Energy Sector to Deliver Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Results

(TA project has three key outputs with specific activities and targets under each output. However, informations described here is only about Output 2)

Lead: ENERGIA/Hivos.

Implementing Partners: CRT/N, Practical Action Consulting Pvt. Ltd. Nepal  
Strategic Partner: National Association of Community Electricity Users-Nepal (NACEUN)

Funding: ADB

Co-Funding: Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through "Empowering Women Engendering Energy- EWEE" project

Duration: January 2019 till June 2020.

The output 2 of the TA project aims to promote GESI in accessing and supporting productive use of clean energy technologies and services by women, the poor and vulnerable households of Electricity Users Cooperatives (EUCs) under NACEUN's initiative. poor and vulnerable households.

### Entrepreneurship and Business Management Training

Primary objective of the Entrepreneurship and Business Management training is to impart knowledge and skills on entrepreneurship and business management to the Women Entrepreneurs (WEs). Another key objective of the training is to empower WEs by enhancing their individual cognitive capacity to create and focus on their goals through Agency based Empowerment sessions. From May-June, four training events were conducted in Kavre, Dhading, Dolakha and Lalitpur. Altogether 94 WEs engaged in the diverse business, managing their own business or contributing in operation and management of their family business participated.



Ms. Indu Aryal, EDC Facilitating the Training

### Exposure Visit and Organisational Management Workshop for EUCs



Participants during the Organisational Management Workshop

Exposure Visit and Organisational Management Workshop for the EUCs was organised with aim to provide opportunities for EUCs' leaderships to observe and learn from well-functioning EUC. And, also to help them realising the root causes for affecting their performance and effective service delivery to their members/customers and formulate plan for addressing the identified causes. The visit and workshop was organised from May 30 to June 2, 2019 where 30 representatives from executive committee of 15 EUCs, Mr. Tirpeshwor Purbe, Director of Community Rural Electrification Department (CRED), Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) along with the TA team participated.

The team visited Community Rural Electricity Cooperative Ltd. (CRECL), Soltibazar, Sarlahi District, one of the best performing EUC.

## emPower Project

Dr. Ashma Vaidya, Consultant, CRT/N and Ms. Usha Maskey from Minergy visited the project site at Sanogau, Balthali from June 16-17, 2019. The emPower project is supported from Climate and Health Research Network, USA.

The objectives of the field visit were to:

- Understand Sano Gau residents' perception of the emPOWER process,
- Understand barriers for villagers to participate in the emPOWER meetings and
- Track progress in Sano Gau residents' lives after their participation in the emPOWER project's training.

Focus group discussion was conducted with the participants who received training on agricultural practices and agency-based empowerment training earlier. It was found that there was an issue of water scarcity in the village. Though it is a woman, who collects water, there is no single woman in Water User Committee because they have no time to participate in such committees due to household responsibilities. Interestingly, in case of water scarcity, women seem

to prefer to look for other alternatives like drip irrigation than voicing the issue to decision-makers or getting the water committee to act upon the issue. The participants also suggested that the training was informative and was helpful for them. Few participants even went to the ward office to inquire about the services and facilities they could get from the Ward Office. One of them said she received corn seeds from the Ward office, while the other received molasses grass (to prevent monkey from entering their fields).

During meeting with Tara Man Lama, Ward Chairman, he suggested that if Sano Gau residents come to the Ward Office and apply for any services, and resources, Ward Office will happily consider the request.



Dr. Ashma Vaidya, Consultant, CRT/N Facilitating the Session

## Project: Improving Rural Livelihoods in Nepal with Pico-Hydro Electrification and Improved Water Mill

The project entitled "Improving Rural Livelihoods in Nepal with Pico-Hydro Electrification and Improved Water Mill" is under implementation phase in Kavre and Makwanpur District and will generate a total of 16.5 Kilo Watt power benefitting 149 households having 776 populations from Janajati and marginalized group including school and church. The project is supported by Siemenpuu Foundation, Finland.

Moreover, the project is providing skill-based capacity building training to the community people to engage them in the income-generating activities by the use of electricity generated through the project. The establishment of micro-enterprises like Poultry, Furniture Mill, Beehive Keeping and running Agro-Processing Grinding mill will help rural people to improve livelihood and sustainable development.



Under Construction Work of Digna Khola Pico Hydro Project, Rakshirang-06 Makwanpur

# Women Creating Their Own Recognition through Small Enterprise- A Success Story

Khotang



 Name Ms. Ramila Rai	 Location Khotang
 Occupation Agriculture	 Plastic Tunnel 8
 Family 4	 Monthly Income USD 135-225



On March 8, 2019, on the special occasion of the International Women’s Day, Ramila was honored with a title “Best Entrepreneur” by Halesi Municipality, Khotang, Nepal for her outstanding work as a vegetable farmer. As part of this honor, she further received an honor certificate from the Municipality.

*“I feel highly encouraged when Municipality honored me. I am feeling more confident on what I’m doing and I will work harder in the coming days.”*

“I wake up early at 4 a.m. in order to make vegetables ready to sell. I carry them to Chapdada near market from Durchim around 7:30 a.m. Sometimes, I use the taxi and other times, I carry on my back since the taxi is very expensive. I buy the stuff for home and books/copies for the children with the money I got from selling vegetables.”

## Journey of Ramila towards a Successful Entrepreneur

Earlier, Ramila’s husband was a local contractor with the earning not sufficient to feed the family and educate the children. The family was under financial crises. Coincidentally, Scaling up Energy Access through Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE Nepal Project) of Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) supported by ENERGIA/Hivos was providing the entrepreneurship training to women, where she received the opportunity to connect with the project.

It has been 2 years she is growing vegetables and fruits. Initially, she came across major challenges such as Insects killing the vegetables and fruits, low self-confidence when the price of vegetables lowered down.

Later, through skill training and continuous mentoring, she was able to overcome those issues effectively. Now, she understood the business strategies and marketing where sometimes the price goes up and sometimes it declines, balancing the actual profit. At the moment, she has increased self-confidence with determination, dedication and desire to expand her business further by adding four extra plastic tunnels for more cultivation. Ramila further stated that we really do not have to move abroad in search of job leaving families behind, we can simply earn in our own village with little extra effort using water, forest, land and other available local resources.

## Consultation Meeting on Solar Cooker International Performance Evaluation Process (PEP) for Solar Cookers

Solar Cooker International (SCI) has introduced the Performance Evaluation Process (PEP) Test Station for solar cookers in 2018 at CRT/N under the facilities of Regional Testing and Knowledge Centre (RTKC) Nepal. In this context, CRT/N has organized a consultation meeting on Solar Cooker International Performance Evaluation Process (PEP) For Solar Cookers on June 12, 2019. During the meeting, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) and key private companies working in Solar Cooker were invited and introduced about test station and its features. In addition, the discussion was carried out on the existing status of solar cooker promotion in Nepal, barriers and challenges, government plans, opportunities and future market of solar cooking in Nepal.



Consultation Meeting with AEPC and key Private Companies of Solar Cooker

## Participation in SGP/GEF/UNDP, Learning-Cum Review Workshop,

Mr. Santosh Mandal, Project Officer from CRT/N participated in the "Learning-cum Review Workshop" in Pokhara from July 12 -14, 2019. The workshop was organized by the Integrated Rural Development Centre (IRDC) Nepal with support from the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP). The objective of the workshop was to share and exchange ideas of the ongoing project among the grantees, UNDP/GEF/SGP country Office and National Steering Committee (NSC) members and monitor the ongoing project activities and furnish projects relevant feedback and necessary support among different grantees.

The GEF Small Grants Programme of United Nations Development Programme provides financial and technical support to the projects aiming conservation and restoration of nature as well as enhancing the livelihoods of the local community.

During the workshop, Mr. Mandal presented about a new proposed project entitled "Eco-village Development through Integration of Renewable Energy Solutions and Climate Friendly Activities for Enhancing Livelihood of Rural Communities in Bethanchok Rural Municipality, Kavre District" to introduce the concept, its plan and working approaches.



Mr. Santosh Mandal with the Participants of Review Workshop

## CRT/N is Celebrating it's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019



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