



Promoting Organic Farming in Eco Village of Kavre District

A four days capacity building training on biofertilizer/biopesticide making through Jholmal and bio composting through Vermi Composting has been organized to promote organic farming in the Eco Village of Kavre district under "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" project supported by Small Grants Programme, Global Environment Facility, United Nations Development Programme (SGP/GEF/UNDP). The training was organized from March 6-9, 2021 at

Bhangala village of Bethanchowk Rural Municipality Ward no. 5, Kavre. The jholmal and Vermi composting training was participated by 29 HHs (18 Women and 11 Men) and 36 HHs (28 Women and 8 Men) respectively having participation of more than 50% of women members. The training included both theory and practical sessions for making along with one to one coaching/supervision to produce home based organic fertilizers. The participants stated that they are benefitted with the training and committed to adopt and practice the learning.

Capacity Building Training on Municipal Energy Planning (MEP) Process



Training Participants Along with Resource Persons and Dr. Purushottam Shrestha, Executive Director, CRT/N

On March 18, 2021, CRT/N successfully completed 4-days Capacity Building Training on Municipal Energy Planning (MEP) Process which was organized in coordination with the Renewable Energy for Rural Areas (RERA) programme jointly implemented by Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPCC) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ-Nepal).

The training was facilitated by Pathway Technologies and Services Pvt. Ltd, MinErgy Pvt.Ltd and GIZ-Nepal. The training was held from March 15-18, 2021 in Lalitpur under the project “Solar Electrification of a Remote Village and Promoting Energy Planning Based on Reliable Data Collection in Nepal” supported by Siemenpuu Foundation, Finland, EKO energy, Finland and Khanikhola Rural Municipality. This project is being implemented in the Khanikhola Rural Municipality, Kavreplanchok. CRT/N under this project will be using the MEP process to develop energy plan for Khanikhola Rural Municipality.

The objective of this training was to build capacity of CRT/N and other organizations (Government, I/NGOs and private sectors) working on energy sector to enable them to understand and apply MEP process to develop energy plan for Rural/Municipalities. Altogether energy professionals from 13 different organizations were trained on Municipal Energy Planning Process.

What is MEP ?

“The MEP is a five-year periodic plan that enables the Municipalities to set targets for energy programmes, support data-driven energy analysis and evidence-based planning, make informed decisions for policy making & investment and facilitate monitoring of the progress. MEP also encompasses necessary activities and measures that need to be carried out by the municipalities to achieve the energy vision, mission, goals, and objectives within a stipulated period of time”

(Source: Guideline:
Preparation of Municipal
Energy Plan)

Interaction Meeting: Green and Inclusive Programme Consortium Partners

On March 25, 2021, Gender, Energy and Water Network (GEWNet) managed by CRT/N, organized an interaction meeting with Green and Inclusive Energy (GIE) Programme Consortium Partners viz., National Association of Community Electricity Users-Nepal (NACEUN), Nepal Federation of Environmental Journalist (NEFEJ), Indoor Air Pollution and Health Forum (IAPHF) Nepal, Renewable Energy Confederation of Nepal (RECoN) and Practical Action Nepal. The meeting was chaired by the Honorable Former Minister of Environment, Science and Technology Mr. Ganesh Shah.

The objectives of the meeting was to strengthen further cooperation and collaboration to continue working together with the GIE Consortium Partners in future. GEWNet members and consortium partners with the total number of 17 participants (4 female and 13 male) participated in the meeting.

The meeting provided a platform for the GIE Consortium Partners to discuss and share their knowledge regarding the potential opportunities for working together in future. The meeting has been observed to be very productive and fruitful as expressed by all the distinguished participants.

Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha, Senior Advisor and Former Executive Director appreciated all the consortium partners for successfully completing this programme. Mr. Shrestha stressed on the point that though the programme is completed but our work has not finished yet so we should continue focusing on our learning and challenges.

Dr. Purushottam Shrestha, Executive Director welcoming the participants delivered a brief overview of the GIE programme supported by ENERGIA/Hivos and policy support from Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPCC) acknowledged the efforts of the consortium partners for successfully completing the planned activities. He further expressed his sincere thanks to Former Honorable Minister & GIE Ambassador Mr. Ganesh Shah and for his wonderful contribution in coordinating and managing for high level dialogue with central

and provincial level Government to include gender and energy in the respective policies and programmes. Similarly, thanked to Ms. Laxmi Giri, Senior Actress for her great contribution in sensitizing the GIE in the local and Community level. The meeting was organized as a part of Gender, Energy and Water Network's (GEWNet) interaction programme.

This programme has been initiated in the process of strengthening and creating the Network as a "knowledge platform" and facilitate in the development and transfer of knowledge appropriate to the agenda of the network.



Former Honorable Minister & GIE Ambassador Mr. Ganesh Shah Facilitating the Discussion

What is GEWNet?

National Network that lobby and advocates gender equality in energy and water sector based on evidence. Provides platform for knowledge exchange.

Who are GEWNet?

Organizations and individuals that are active in addressing gender issues in energy, and water sectors.

Where does GEWNet function?

The Network works in national, provincial and local level.

Why was GEWNet established?

GEWNet was created to influence change in decisions-making, in energy and water sector that are made with the least involvement of women who bears the most burden. GEWNet also works to enhance the role of women in planning and decision making and strengthen capability of women through knowledge enrichment.

Community Building in the Model Eco-Village: Inauguration and Handover



Community Building at Chyamrangbesi Village-1, Bethanchowk Rural Municipality



Mr. Prem Bahadur Timilsina, Chairman, Bethanchowk Rural Municipality Delivering Speech During Community Building Inauguration and Handover Ceremony

On March 1, 2021, CRT/N organized and participated in the Community Building Inauguration and Handover event at Chyamrangbesi village in Ward-1 of Bethanchowk Rural Municipality. The village was also the project site for the Eco-Village Development (EVD-Phase I) project. The event was chaired by Mr. Tul Prasad Dahal-Chairman of project beneficiary committee (Gahubali Beejbridhi Samuha). Mr. Prem Bahadur Timilsina-Chairman, Bethanchowk Rural Municipality and Mr. Somnath Ghimire, Ward-1 Chairman and Dr. Purushottam Shrestha, Executive Director, CRT/N were invited as Chief Guest and Special Guest respectively for the event.

The EVD-Phase I project funded by Civil Society in Development (CISU), Denmark and coordinated by Danish Human Settlement Service (DIB), Denmark and implemented by CRT/N had supported the project beneficiary community to build a community building as per the norms and regulation set by the Government of Nepal. However, the funding for the community building was managed and secured by DIB, Denmark. Besides, CRT/N also facilitated the project beneficiary committee to coordinate with the Bethanchowk Rural Municipality to manage matching fund for the construction of the building. The event marks the culmination of EVD Phase-I project.

The community building comprises of two rooms and bathroom is electrified by 50Wp solar home system. The project beneficiary

committee has committed to use the rooms as a guest room and a meeting hall. The guest room is equipped with a small kitchen area equipped with an induction cook stove. The stove will be powered by national grid. As of now, the committee has applied for national grid connection. Furthermore, the community building management committee was also provided with dustbins, solar dryers and office furniture. The total cost of the community building construction was NPR. 11,00,000 (USD 9,243 approx. of which NPR. 8,00,000 USD 6,722 approx. was funded by the project and remaining NPR. 3,00,000 (USD 2,521 approx. was provided by Bethanchowk Rural Municipality. The Ward Chairman Mr. Som Nath Ghimire expressed his gratitude towards CRT/N and Bethanchowk Rural Municipality for providing the support to construct the community building. Dr. Purushottam Shrestha, Executive Director of CRT/N congratulated and thanked the local community, Rural Municipality, and different organisations for the hand in hand support provided to implement the EVD project successfully including the construction of Community Hall.

Inaugurating the Community Hall, Chief Guest Mr. Prem Bhadur Timilsina thanked the community for the successful implementation of the EVD Phase-I project which has resulted into replication of the eco-village development concept in another ward (Ward 5) of the Bethanchowk Rural Municipality. The event was concluded after Mr. Timilsina handed over the key of the community building to Mr. Tul Prasad Dahal.

Advocating EVD Concept Among the Micro Financing Institutes of Nepal

Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha, Senior Advisor and former Executive Director shared CRT/N's experience on the implementation of Eco-Village Concept and its relevance to the underprivileged communities of rural areas of Nepal in a virtual event organized by Centre for Self-help Development (CSD) on March 2, 2021.

Sharing the experiences Mr. Shrestha also talked about the various renewable energy technologies such as Improved Water Mill, Improved Cook Stoves (both mud and metallic), Solar Home System, Solar Water Pump, Hydraulic Ram Pump, toilet attached Biogas plants and relevant solar thermal technologies such as Solar Dryer which are also the parts of Eco-Village Concept and help to promote sustainable village development and keep the environment clean.

Further, he also adds the concept is a holistic development approach helps dealing with wider social and cross cutting issues such as

social inclusion, gender mainstreaming and environment management for the overall development of a selected village. As part of this approach, Bethanchowk Rural Municipality in Kavrepalanchok district has taken ownership of this model and incorporated Eco-Village Development Concept in its Annual Policy and Guidelines 2019/020 (Barshik Niti and Margnirdeshan, FY 2076/077).

The event was organized by CSD to familiarize and promote Eco-village Development Concept among its Micro-finance Member Institutions to support various aspects of Eco-Village Development in Nepal which was participated by 31 representatives of 14 Member Institutions of CSD.



Photo Source: CSD

Distribution of EVD Solutions: Plastic Tunnel, Drip Irrigation Set, Jholmal Drum and EM



As per the need assessment of the rural community of Bhangala village of Bethanchowk Rural Municipality Ward no. 5, Kavre, various climate smart technologies and EVD solutions have been distributed in the presence of Mr. Prem Bdr Timalsina Chairman of Bethanchowk Rural Municipality, Kavre, and Mr. Khajanchi Lama, Ward Chairman, Ward no. 5, Bethanchowk Rural Municipality under "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". Project supported Small Grants Programme, Global Environment Facility, United Nations Development Programme (SGP/GEF/UNDP).

As per the theme of Eco-village development concept, Plastic Tunnel, Drip Irrigation Set, Jholmal Drum, EM and Vermi Worm were distributed on February 7, 2021.. Beside these, other technologies like portable biogas, improved cooking stoves are already installed and other multiple EVD solutions are under process of installation in the project area to demonstrate the Eco-village development concept.

Dialogue Meeting cum Workshop with Financing Institutes and Cooperatives



Ms. Chija Adhikari, Officer, CRT/N Addressing the Meeting

With an objective to establish linkage between financing institutes/cooperatives and the rural community to channelizing loans among the needy community to increase the adoption of various Renewable Energy/Eco Village Development (EVD) solutions and support sustainability of the project, CRT/N organized a dialogue meeting cum workshop on February 7, 2021 with financing Institutes and cooperatives at Bethanchok Rural Municipality, Kavre District

under "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". Project supported by Small Grants Programme, Global Environment Facility, United Nations Development Programme (SGP/GEF/UNDP).

The event was participated by around 25 numbers of participants from micro financing institutes, cooperatives, beneficiary community and the government officials from Bethanchok Rural Municipality. Prior to the workshop, mapping of MFIs/Cooperatives in the project vicinity was done and potential and interested MFIs/Cooperatives were invited for the discussion workshop.

The emPOWER Collective Project Updates

The emPOWER Collective Project conducted a follow-up visit on February 26, 2021 at the Bhangala of Bethanchowk Rural Municipality, Kavrepalanchowk with an intention to meet Ward Secretary and Agriculture Officer to discuss on questions raised by the participants related to agriculture and possible opportunities for farmers. A total number of 13 participants attended the meeting with Ward Secretary and Agriculture Officer. With the motive to enhance the capacity of participants to talk in front of the mass, two participants were asked to host the discussion session.

The participants asked questions related to agriculture and animal husbandry. The queries of participants were solved by an Agriculture Officer

and suggested them to form a formal agriculture group so that they can easily access the subsidies provided by ward or Rural Municipality. Ward Secretary gave information about the subsidy notice that ward or rural municipality publishes time and again. She informed such information can be seen in the Facebook page of Ward and Rural Municipality. For those who are not familiar with Facebook can find such notice posted in mill and milk collection center as well. The discussion session was very interactive and every participant actively participated and asked their queries.

Improved Cooking Stove Installation, Operation, Repair Maintenance and Kitchen Management Training



Prepared Bricks & Chimney by Participants

CRT/N and Rural Energy and Technology Service Center Pvt. Ltd (RETSC), has successfully conducted 7 days skill based training On Improved Cooking Stove Installation, Operation, Repair Maintenance and Kitchen Management from January 6-12, 2021 with support from Renewable World, Nepla at Baddichour of Barahtal Rural Municipality, Surkhet district and trained 17 participants that included 8 male and 9 female where 14 persons were from different Health Post and Centers in the project area along with 3 persons of Renewable World Nepal's Energy for Health programme's Field staffs. The training has been

provided under Renewable World (RW) Nepal Renewable Energy for Change (RE4C) project to improve the livelihoods of rural communities through promoting different renewable energy technologies (RETs) including 'Improved Cook Stoves' aiming with increased thermal efficiency, conservation of forests by reducing fuel wood consumption, reduction in women's drudgery, reduction in indoor air pollution and health and fire hazards. The training has been very useful in increasing their level of knowledge substantially as reported by the participants and also committed to install 350 ICSs by the end of Jesh 2078/May 2021.



Participants Practicing the Construction of Different Types of ICS During the Practical Sessions

CRT/N Family Welcomes New Executive Director



Dr. Purushottam Shrestha (Right) Receiving Appointment Letter from Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha (Left), Senior Advisor & Former Executive Director

CRT/N is pleased to welcome Dr. Purushottam Shrestha as the new Executive Director. Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha, Former Executive Director handed over the responsibilities to Dr. Purushottam Shrestha on January 14, 2021, after serving CRT/N for over 3 decades. Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha with the new responsibility as Senior Advisor will continue to provide guidance to CRT/N team in the coming days. CRT/N team expressed sincere gratitude to Mr. Shrestha for his extensive contributions towards the promotion of rural technologies for the enhancement of rural livelihood in Nepal through CRT/N. New Executive Director, Dr. Shrestha has been with CRT/N since June 2014 as the Director and the Senior Director. Dr. Shrestha holds Ph. D

in Economics from Tribhuvan University Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal,. M.A in Development Studies and Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Policy and Project Planning from International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), the Hague..

Dr. Shrestha has more than 30 years of experiences in rural finance, microfinance, renewable energy projects planning and implementation. During this period, he worked in senior management position in various government, non-government organizations, International agency (ADB) financed project in Nepal. Presently he is the Chairman of Sharathi Nepal Microfinance Institutions Limited (national level Microfinance Development Bank) He is the former Chairman and Executive Director of Naya Nepal Microfinance Development Bank). He has worked as the Chief Executive Officer of Small Farmers Development Bank and DGM/Deputy CEO, Division Chief & Director of Agriculture Development Bank. He also worked as the National Team Leader and Microfinance Development Expert of ADB financed project in Nepal.

Centre Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N)



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**Wishing You a Prosperous
New Year 2078 !**



Link to the videos of Women Entrepreneurs :

1. Together we can succeed_ Story of Sanu Maya

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUEOUvHtorw&t=9s>

2. Chini Maya Uplifting livelihood of Rural Women

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRH2NvHTyVs>