

E-Newsletter

Talk Programme on Tariff and GESI



Participants of the Talk Programme

On December 24, 2019, CRT/N and Gender, Energy and Water Network (GEWNet) jointly organized a talk programme on “Electricity Tariff in the Context of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion for Access to Grid Electricity”. The talk programme was conducted with the objective to

understand the Tariff Regulations and its implications on the activities of women and the marginalized group and to understand necessary measures to address current issues and gaps. Institutional partners representing Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs), representative from the Government, member of the Electricity Regulatory Commission,

Expert on Tariff, few International Service Organizations and members of the network participated in the programme. The event provided a platform for the members to discuss on the existing tariff policies of Nepal and the GESI gaps in electricity tariff.

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ENERGIA Mission Visited Kathmandu, Nepal from 11-15 November

Ms. Sheila Oparaocha International Coordinator and Project Manager , ENERGIA/Hivos and Team Leader of “**TA 9334 NEP: Strengthening the Capacity of the Energy Sector to Deliver Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Results**” and “Empowering Women Engendering Energy – Nepal” project., Ms. Soma Dutta International GESI expert and Ms. Busi Maphosa , Finance Officer visited Nepal to review the progress of Output 2 (to enhanced productive use (PUE) of clean

energy technologies and services by women from poor and vulnerable households) through consultation with the national team on results and thorough assessment of field level activities.

Ms. Oparaocha visited Dhulikhel to observe training on business development skills provided to women entrepreneurs. She also had consultative meeting with Electricity Users' Committee (EUC) of Lalitpur and visited women entrepreneurs to provide feedback to Output 2 team on qual-

ity of field level activities and results. Furthermore, the mission conducted meetings with Community Rural Electrification Department (CRED)/NEA, ADB, PAC, ADBL Eco-system stakeholders, to update the progress, lessons learnt and future plans for output 2.



Ms. Sheila interacting with Women Entrepreneur's training in Dhulikhel

Roundtable Meeting with Agricultural Development Bank Limited (ADBL) for Facilitating Access to Finance to Women Entrepreneurs

Output 2- Strengthening the Capacity of the Energy Sector to Deliver Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Results (TA 9334-NEP) and Empowering Women Engendering Energy - Nepal”



Group picture of participants

The TA 9334 NEP project is Led by ENERGIA, the Netherlands while jointly implemented by Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal and Practical Action Consulting (PAC) from Nepal with National Association of Community Electricity Users Nepal as strategic partner, supported financially by ADB and SIDA. The project will support 500 women entrepreneurs under 15 Electricity Users Committees (EUCs) in Chitwan, Dhading, Lalitpur, Kavre, Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Ramechhap and Sindhuli districts.

project aims to GESI in accessing and supporting productive use of clean energy technologies and services by women, the poor and vulnerable households of Electricity Users Committees (EUCs) under National Association of Community Electricity Users Nepal (NACEUN)'s initiative. This project has been jointly implemented by Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) and Practical Action Consulting (PAC) with NACEUN as strategic partner, supported by Asian Development Bank (ADB), SIDA and International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy (ENERGIA)/Hivos.

One of the key targets of this output is to develop 500 Women Entrepre-

neurs from 15 EUCs through training support including energy efficiency, making linkages to finance and market for such their enterprising. As part of accessing finance process, entrepreneurs will be supported to identify and negotiate with financial institutions for credit. In this context, CRT/N, NACEUN and ADBL have signed Tripartite MoU to work in joint

collaboration to provide access to finance for enterprise development of Women Entrepreneurs trained under this project. In order to implement this MoU, a roundtable meeting among, ADBL Branch Managers, EUC and EDCs was conducted to make clear understanding of MoU for readiness to process and to extend credit to the women led energy based enterprises.

The participants were Mr. Anil Kumar Upadhyay, CEO, ADBL, Province and Branch Managers of ADBL branch offices, Mr. Narayan Gyawali, Chairperson NACEUN, Chairpersons/ representatives of EUCs, Enterprise Development Coordinators (EDCs).

Mr. Anil Kumar Upadh-

yay said that the MoU with CRT/N and partner organizations working in this TA project has provided ADBL another opportunity to promote energy based innovations in the agriculture sector through women entrepreneurship, which will help ADBL to fulfill responsibility towards society. He told that ADBL is assured on timely payment as women are always disciplined. ADBL has 97 percent loan repayment history with women clients while overall repayment rate is 85 percent.

In addition to above remarks he said that the government has several policies and procedures of loan, therefore we need to aware everyone on financial literacy and have to decide to whom to lend loan with collateral or without collateral. However, we from ADBL commit to revise the policies wherever possible to support women entrepreneurs and will provide best service as possible. There is no issues on loan, ADBL has sufficient amount for loan. All the systems are computerized, once data of client are entered in the computer, without any delay, the decision of loan approval or rejection will be informed to the client.

GIE Partners' 2020 Reflection and Planning Meeting

GIE Programme, Nepal is a five year strategic project based on multiple partnerships, started on 2016. In January 27-29, 2020 CRT/N under GIE programme carried out **2020 Reflection and Planning Meeting**. Ms

Sheila Oparaocha, International Coordinator and Programme Manager, and Ms Caroline Brants, Project Officer from ENERGIA/Hivos, the Netherland visited Nepal to facilitate the training. The major objective of this workshop was to understand the different methodologies practiced in GIE, develop Outcome Harvesting Statements of year 2019 by

all the partner organisations and its analysis, follow up of the outcome statements of previous years and revise Theory of Change (ToC) based upon the changed context.

The Outcome Harvesting technique has been postulated as the principal method for monitoring the outcomes of GIE programme. Team of GIE from CRT/N and all the consortium partners, NACEUN, NEFEJ, RECoN, IAPHF, PA participated in the meeting.



Participants of the meeting

Mid-term Review Mission of ADB from January, 14- 17, 2020

The review mission of ADB of TA 9334 NEP project was carried out with the aim to review the progress in terms of the achievement vs target as well to review the project implementation issues and mitigation actions undertaken. In

addition with this, the mission's other purpose of visit was to review the TA 9334 NEP project budget expenditure and outstanding balance; review and agree on the project work plan for 2020.



Interaction with Ms. Januka Karmacharya, Tailoring and Poultry Owner, Mangaltar Kavre

Evaluation of "Improving Rural Livelihoods in Nepal with Pico-Hydro Electrification and Improved Water Mill" Project

CRT/N has completed project entitled "Improving Rural Livelihoods in Nepal with Pico-Hydro Electrification and Improved Water Mill" supported by EKOenergy and Siemenpuu Foundation, Finland. The project has installed two units of Pico hydro system for generation of electricity

of total 16.5kW of power in Makwanpur and Kavre district benefitting about 776 of population. The project was run for the duration of July 2018-November 2019.

Mr. Timo Kuronen from Siemenpuu Foundation in November 2019 and by independent evalua-

tor Ms. Miia Toikka in March 2-4, 2020 carried out the project evaluation. For this Mr. Kuronen visited CRT/N in November 18-19, 2020 and Ms. Toikka visited from March 2-4, 2020.



Mr. Timo Kuronen visiting the project site

Interaction Meeting with Policy and Planning Commission Members and other Concerned Stakeholders of Province 3

The GIE programme is supported financially by ENERGIA/Hivos the Netherlands-based development organization while policy support is provided by the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPIC). In Nepal, CRT/N is the lead organization implementing the programme in partnership with 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) and Practical Action Nepal (PAC).

CRT/N along with Partner Organizations organized Sensitization/Interaction Meeting at Province Level on January 20, 2019 under Green and Inclusive Energy (GIE) Programme in Nepal. The Interaction Meeting was chaired by Dr. Purushottam



Group photo of organizers and participants

Shrestha, Senior Director, CRT/N and Mr. Shyam Kumar Basnet, Honorable Member, Policy, and Planning Commission, Province no. 3 remained the Chief Guest. Other distinguished Guests were Honourable Former Minister Mr. Ganesh Shah, Dr. Ram Chandra Dhakal, Honourable Member, Policy and Planning Commission, Province no. 3. Mr. Megha Raj Awasthi, S.D.E, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development,

The main objective of the interaction meeting was to advocate the agenda of GIE among the Province level representatives, in which 49 participants from the province headquarter, Hetauda participated representing various

provincial and federal level governments, universities, private sectors, bank, micro-finance institutions, community forest, small and cottage industry and other associations and not-for-profit organizations. The interaction meeting focused on GIE objectives, implementation modality and to identify the joint efforts in GESI inclusive energy planning process with the Province and its territorial local Government. Also

it was helpful to conceptualise the importance of RES/RETS to decrease the dependency on energy and support to increase RES promotion events collaboration with local stakeholders, leaders, CSOs and community, which will be supportive to enhance the knowledge and information about gender and social inclusion for energy management and productive uses to enhance their livelihood.

Mr. Shyam Kumar Basnet, Honorable Member, Policy, and Planning Commission, Province no. 3 thanked CRT/N for bringing attention on importance of energy and women's involvement. Mr. Basnet informed that Province Government has an agenda for this and planning to meet this

target in upcoming 3-5 years. Government has also passed to promote electric vehicle from policy development programme. There has been huge change in energy use and source of energy, but we are still talking about Nepal's capability of hydro-energy production only. Focus should be on how to deliver energy to each household not only in production. Thirty three percent women representation of women in government has helped to uplift the status of women and good thing is that we have now at least one ward member and vice chairperson woman in our local government. He also highlighted that if we can bring women in front line in any sector, and then the development can speed up. He also requested for opinions regarding necessary policies in addressing GESI agenda in energy programmes for Province 3.



Mr. Shyam Kumar Basnet, Honorable Member, Policy and Planning Commission, Province 3 sharing Planning and Policy in Energy Sector

Round Table Interaction: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Energy Policies and Programmes with National Level Stakeholders

On February 26, 2020 GIE Programme as a part of the advocacy and lobby at higher decision makers and planners, CRT/N along with partner organizations has organized a Round-table Interaction on “Gender

of various Parliamentary -level thematic Committees, concerned National and local Level representatives, of federal governments, private sectors, financial institutions and media. The programme aimed to discuss about the role of different entities in energy sectorial development with the gender/social perspectives. The presentations highlight-



Honourable Chairperson Ms. Purna Kumari Subedi , delivering her views on green energy and gender aspects

Equality and Social Inclusion in Energy Policies and Programmes” with Honourable Members of Parliament, Honourable Representatives

ed GIE objectives, implementation modality, outcomes achieved while the discussion was focused on how and what can be done to

promote RE integrating GESI agenda from national level.

Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha, Executive Director, CRT/N chaired the Round Table Interaction Programme while Ms. Purna Kumari Subedi Honourable Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee of Agriculture, Cooperative and Natural Resources) was the Chief Guest. Other high-level participants were Honourable Former Minister Mr. Ganesh Shah, Honourable Member of Parliament Ms. Bijaya KC, Honourable member of Province No. 3 Mr. Ramesh Poudyal, Mr. Dilip Kumar Sadaula, Joint Secretary Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Ministry, Chairperson of Mahankal Rural Municipality Mr. Shree Ram Chandra

Dahal, Mr. Nawa Raj Dhakal, Director, AEPC and Mr. Pratap Subedi, Deputy CEO, Agriculture Development Bank Limited (ADBL).

During the programme, Honourable Ms. Subedi appreciated the work done by CRT/N in creating awareness on RE and GESI for concerned people of parliament. She said that she learnt a lot about green energy and gender and social aspects from the interaction meeting. She committed to put forward this agenda in the Energy Committee of Parliament. She further said that she will also raise this issue in the parliament to draw attention of high level representative and leaders for necessary policy intervention.

Training on Integrating GESI in Energy Programmes and Projects

In collaboration with National Association of Rural Municipality in Nepal’s (NARMIN), CRTN together with GEWNet under GIE programme organized one day training on Integrating Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Energy Programmes and Projects which was conducted on February 4, 2020. The participants of the training were the central staff members and Province Liaison Officers of NAR-

MIN.

Welcoming the participants Dr. Purushottam Shrestha, Senior Director of CRT/N informed that CRT/N has been working on gender and energy sector for the last 30 years. He described the objective of the GIE Programme which is to contribute to the creation of an enabling policy environment to meet the domestic and productive energy needs of the poor, wom-

en, and marginalized groups through decentralized renewable energy and clean cooking energy solutions. He further talked about how it can help to make policies in rural municipalities.

Dr. Indira Shakya, GIE Project Manager, highlighted GESI issues and solutions for energy programmes and projects. Gender can be effective and incorporated in energy sector if we can



Group work going on

create a suitable environment. To incorporate gender in energy sector, it is important to identify the need, understand the problem and prioritize it. The main objectives of mainstreaming

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GESI into energy are to build the capacity of women and disadvantaged group in decision making power in energy sector; to insure access to employment, resources and opportunities for women and dis-

advantaged group; to eliminate women's workload and improve their lifestyle and; to promote the market and free services for women and disadvantaged group.

ing and they can contribute in policy making of local government. He made a commitment that the GEWNet and NARMIN will go hand in hand and work together in future.



Group photo of organizers and participants

At the end of the training, Mr. Bimal Pokharel, Executive Director of NARMIN said that there are so many things to take with them from this train-

Exhibition of Eco-Village Solutions Induced Rural Inhabitants to Adopt Environment Friendly Technologies in their Livelihood

On February 28, 2020, the excitement and curiosity was evident

among resident of Bhangala Village, Chyangsingkharka Ward-5, Bethanchowk Rural Municipality (BRM). The rea-

son for their inquisitiveness was opportunity to participate in exhibition and demonstration of Eco-village solutions or technologies within their village locality. Under

the project "Eco-Village Development (EVD) through Integration of Renewable Energy Solutions and Climate Friendly Activities for Enhancing Livelihood of Rural Communities in Bethanchowk Rural Municipality, Kavre District" supported by SGP/UNDP/GEF. The two-day Project Initiation Workshop was organized by Center for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N). The exhibition and demonstration of Eco-

village solutions or technologies was part of the project initiation workshop.

On the first day of the initiation workshop (February 27, 2020), the details of project, implementation modality, expected outcome and list of activities were briefed to the representative of BRM, Chyangsingkharka Ward-5 and representative of beneficiary community from Bhangala village. The newly formed benefi-



Chairman of BRM, Mr. Prem Bahadur Timilsina visiting the exhibition

ciary committee “Nawa Urja Krishi Samuha” was present on first day of the initiation workshop. On the second day, the Bhanga-la village, community people had opportunity to participate in exhibition and demonstration of Eco-village solutions or technologies. The occasion contributed to instill credibility of CRT/N as lead organization to implement the project. The exhibition and demonstration event

was formally inaugurated by the Chairman of BRM, Mr. Prem Bahadur Timilsina followed by opening remarks by the Ward-5 Chairman, Mr. Khajanchi Lama. There were altogether 10 technologies (Solar Dryer, Hydraulic Ram Pump, Portable Biogas-2 types, Induction Cook Stoves, Mud based Improved Cook Stoves, Rocket and three natural draft Improved Cook Stoves and Eco-village Concept prototype) demonstrated

to the community. The event was observed by approximately 80 community people. The clean cooking solution mostly attracted to women members of the society while biogas technology was popular among male population. The event duration was four hours starting from 11:00 AM to 15:00 PM. This event will help the project beneficiary village to identify and adopt and ensure sustainable use of appropri-

ate EVD solution for their households.



Visitors during exhibition

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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, Hydrant, 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).