

A Vehicle for Cooperation: INFORSE Regional Workshop, November 1-2, 2011, New Delhi, India



by Raymond Myles, INSEDA, INFORSE South Asia Coordinator

The INFORSE Regional Workshop of Southern Voices on Climate Change project was held in November, 2011 in New Delhi.

At the workshop, the 27 participants compared experiences related to renewable energy and other environmentally friendly solutions that are implemented by INFORSE members and that are contributing to climate-change mitigation. The participants also formulated recommendations for the climate negotiations. These recommendations will be presented in the side event of INFORSE during the climate negotiation's COP17 at Durban.

The workshop recognized the expertise and strengths of INFORSE members in renewable energy and in the technology transfer related to it. The participants agreed that the critical awareness at the grass-roots level in environment related issues were important. All agreed that interacting with rural people and other end users on the topics of renewable energy and global warming will educate and prepare them for appropriate climate-

change mitigation actions for and by those most acutely affected by climate change.

The strengths of INFORSE - South Asia members are their expertise in renewable-energy promotion and implementation of people-oriented renewable-energy technologies (RETs) at the grass-roots level as well as knowledge and technology transfer related to RE. Thus, it was decided to coordinate more closely among them in those aspects in the future. For this the INFORSE members need promotional materials as tools for capacity-building of grass-roots level NGOs who are directly interacting with the end users, primarily rural people.

The INFORSE South Asia network decided to create a core committee of member NGOs for each of the South Asian countries in which INFORSE national focal points are active (India, Nepal, Sri Lanka) and to work out concrete strategies along with coordinating advocacy and lobbying efforts. It was also agreed to work for more projects in INFORSE and that there should be continuity of the national focal points (NFPs) and the INFORSE regional coordinator (IRC) in the South Asian region for at least a five-year period.

The workshop participants also agreed proposals for climate policies to help the small-scale mitigation in which INFORSE members are experienced. (See box.)



Workshop Conclusions

Local renewable energy solutions can help to mitigate the destructive impacts of climate change. They reduce fossil-fuel use for lighting, cooking, and transport. They also reduce the cutting down of trees, and can replace oil used to fuel electricity generators. Even though they are far from perfect, carbon credits for small-scale renewable energy projects encourage sustainable development. This also includes CDM projects.

On the other hand, a **reform is required for carbon credits** to become good support mechanisms for small-scale renewable energy solutions. The lengthy registration and validation time as well as the steep costs associated with obtaining carbon credits are major impediments.

The process *must be made simpler* for small-scale projects. The uncertainty of the future of carbon trading after the conclusion of the first Kyoto commitment period in 2012 is also a concern.



Posters made by INSEDA, INFORSE South Asia in the framework of the Southern Voices Programme on Climate Change.

More information:
W: www.inforse.org/asia
www.climatecapacity.org