

# REPORT ON NATIONAL EVENT 2

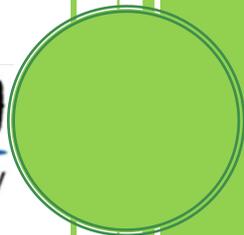
## *Field Visit and Interaction Program with the Stakeholders*

Evidence BASED Advocacy for Low-Carbon, Pro-Poor  
Sustainable Eco-Village Development (EVD) in South  
Asia

7<sup>th</sup> July 2017



**INF**  **RSE-South ASIA**  
International Network for Sustainable Energy



## BACKGROUND

With a financial support from Civil Society in Development (CISU), coordinated by Danish International Human Settlement Services (DIOB) and International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE), Denmark the project titled "**Evidence Based Advocacy for Low-Carbon, Pro-Poor Sustainable Eco-Village Development (EVD) in South Asia**" has been implemented in 4 countries of South Asia; Nepal, India, SriLanka and Bangladesh. The objective of this program is to reduce carbon emission along with rural development for poverty reduction since January 2015. Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) is responsible organization to implement this program in Nepal. With approval from Social Welfare Council, Nepal, CRT/N has been implementing this program in coordination and collaboration with District Coordination Committee, Kavre and other government and non-government organizations in three villages; Chyamrangbesi, Ganesthan Chalal and Dhungkharka of Kavrepalanchok District of Nepal.

The Eco-Village Development concept involves the implementation at village-level of appropriate, inexpensive renewable-energy technology (RET) and capacity-building activities for climate-change adaptation and mitigation. It takes a collaborative approach by involving community members deeply in planning and implementation, while also giving them the tools to be resilient while facing climate change. EVD is an integrated approach of creating development-focused, low-carbon communities of practice in existing villages. The bundle of practices includes mitigation technologies like small, household-sized biogas plants, smokeless stoves, solar-energy technology, improved water mills to generate electric power, stand-alone systems like pico-/micro-hydro power for rural electrification, and solar-powered drying units. It also includes adaptation technologies such as organic farming, roof-water harvesting, water-lifting technologies like hydraulic ram pumps, and other solutions.

On July 7, 2017, CRT/N conducted National Event 2 as a field visit to one of its EVD site Dhungkharka followed by interaction program at Dhulikhel with an objective to share learning from the program and discuss on its replication possibility and sustainability of the program based upon the experiences with National level policy makers.

## EVD SITE VISIT

EVD site visit at Dhugkharka was done by 10 participants, in which chief guest was Dr. Prabhu Budhathoki, Honorable Member of National Planning Commission. Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha, Executive Director of CRT/N, Mr. Rajan Thapa, Program Manager, Clean Energy Nepal (CEN). Representatives from DDC and other stakeholders also participated in the visit. Dr. Budhathoki observed different EVD technologies during the visit, such as Improved Cookstove, Plastic Tunnel, Homemade Pesticide, Hydraulic Ram pump, Improved Water Mill etc. Dr. Budhathoki and all other participants also interacted with the local beneficiaries about their experiences of EVD project.



Photos: Participant interacting with the villagers and some of the EVD technologies observed during visit

Ms. Yam Maya Shrestha, one of the active members of EVD users group informed to the visiting team about different renewable energy technologies they are taking up after intervention of EVD program in their village and its positive impacts. She also talked about the skills gained from the training on homemade pesticide preparation, drip irrigation, organic farming, and Vegetable farming under plastic tunnel, Cowshed, and waste management.



## Interaction Program at Dhulikhel

Interaction program started with the welcome from Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha, Executive Director, CRT/N. He thanked the entire distinguished guests for their valuable presence despite of their busy schedule. He talked about the EVD program which has been implemented in Bethanchok Rural Municipality, Ward no. 1,2,3 and 4 with approval, coordination and collaboration with all concerned Government Organizations. He also shared that EVD program has focused mainly on women, poor and marginalized group for their empowerment, gender mainstreaming in order to enhance them socially and economically. He then highlighted EVD solutions and capacity building activities like renewable energy technologies, organic farming, household waste management, cowshed management, environment conservation that have helped not only to improve rural livelihood but also conserve environment and mitigating Climate Change. He also emphasized that the program has been successfully fulfilling various indicators of the Environment Friendly Local Governance (EFLG) Framework, developed by Government of Nepal for developing environment friendly ward, village, and town. He also shared various successful cases from the project area.



After that Mr. Subas Lamichane, Program Officer, from CRTN presented about the EVD program with the details about the selection of VDCs, coordination with different line agencies since the planning phase of project, need based technologies and capacity building trainings to local people on different EVD approaches and its implementation and achievement. Mr. Lamichane also highlighted that clean energy, greenery promotion, encouraging organic farming, policy support, mass awareness, improving rural livelihood was prioritized in the project areas. After that video documentary on EVD was presented at the interaction program.



Panel Discussion was held which was facilitated by Mr. Rajan Thapa, Program Manager, Clean Energy Nepal. He raised following questions to the panelists and the audience for discussion:

1. What role CRT/N can play for EVD scale-up?

## 2. How can EVD be included in the local planning process?

Mr. Ram Prasad Dhital, Executive Director, Alternate Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) stated that replication to other area is required but this program is mainly concerned with creating impact and showing evidence of its successful intervention. Working under the framework of EFLG, will be beneficial. Under the political transition phase of Nepal, we should focus on advocating EVD to be considered for inclusion in the planning process, as a separate unit in the government plan. He also mentioned that sensitization is important and resource generation is still a problem for replication. According to Mr. Dhital, up scaling possibility of EVD in rural council and municipalities is higher during the transition phase, as all power will be with local government. Mr. Dhital informed that there is a subsidy in metallic ICS, Biogas and other renewable technologies provided by government. If Bethanchok Rural Municipality come up with a plan of developing their area as a renewable energy village within 3-5 years period, AEPC will be happy to support them to develop it as a first Demo- Eco-village Rural Municipality.



Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha mentioned that though the program is small and limited with three villages only, our ultimate aim is to include EVD concept in National level planning through village level planning. He also informed that we need to think how EVD concept can be integrated with the development plans and for this CRT/N would like to play a role of facilitator and technical service provider working closely with the Rural Municipality.



Mr. Hari Gopal Gorkhali, Sr. Director, CRT/N suggested that all Ward Chairman should prepare the baseline study of their ward and to see the present status and to compare the status of the village before and after intervention of EVD program. Mr. Gorkhali strongly suggested to Chief of Bethanchok Rural Municipality to take an opportunity to get support from NPC and AEPC by preparing 5 years planning.

Mr. Prem Bahadur Timilsina, Chief of Bethanchok Rural Municipality replied that they have a status report from all 6 wards and they will be carrying out the need assessment study. Based upon the requirement, they will hire the concerned experts from respective agencies for example for EVD that could be CRT/N. For their area, main income sources are agriculture, livestock, medicinal herbs, and fish farming. They want to work on and develop these sectors. He emphasized that if all of us work together, we can achieve this goal. He also highlighted that we should look after and work in entire Village council. He assured that he is ready to collaborate with CRT/N and asked CRT/N to provide technical support, to which they will provide local support. Lastly, he requested National Planning Commission to help them prepare layout. He also talked about the need of modernization in agricultural practices in their villages.



To this Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha replied that rural technology like Hydraulic Ram Pump could be promoted which is appropriate for lifting water and is a zero carbon emission technology for micro irrigation and drinking water to bring a modernization in the agriculture and drinking water system. Hence, he requested Mr. Dhital to include this technology in the national program of AEPC and provide subsidy to hydram like APEC is doing for solar irrigation pump.

Mr. Anjit Gautam, Energy Officer from DCC, Kavre shared that EFLG focus on climate change, environment conservation, organic farming, waste management etc. There are different indicators set by government for an area to become environment friendly. EVD is also fulfilling several indicators set under EFLG and helping government to achieve their target of creating environment friendly village.



In his closing remarks Dr. Prabhu Budhathoki, Honorable Member of National Planning Commission (NPC) expressed his happiness to know the willingness of AEPC to provide the support to Bethanchok and requested the Chief not to leave the opportunity of getting support from all organizations. He also suggested that there is a need of list of technologies or indicators that will prove that the village is an Eco-Village for example, presence of 90% of households using ICS and other related activities. Another method could be matching with EFLG indicators to prove it as an eco-village. He also suggested to develop Bethanchok as an organic valley because of its geography and mentioned that there is possibility of Agro-tourism in that area. He invited Mr. Timilsina to National Planning Commission Office with concrete plan, for replication in other areas. He informed that all of us will work together for the research and involve CRT/N and AEPC for technological support. Lastly, he informed that EVD program is an interesting and good demonstration program, and we can together advocate this concept to other relevant agencies. He appreciated the small and local level initiatives and requested Chief Mr. Timilsina to make EVD as a best approach for livelihood improvement and local level climate change mitigation and adaptation program.



## ANNEX 1: PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Time	Activities	Resource Person
07:30-08:00	Registration	All participants
08:00-08:30	Breakfast	All participants
08:30-10:00	Travelling to Dhungharka from Hotel Horizon, Dhulikhel	All participants
10:00-11:00	Observation of EVD solutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydraulic Rampump and productive use of lifted water</li> <li>• Vegetable farming under plastic tunnel</li> <li>• Micro-irrigation practices</li> <li>• Homemade pesticide preparation and its use</li> <li>• Cowshed and waste management</li> <li>• Household solar system</li> <li>• Improved water mill</li> <li>• Improved cook stove</li> </ul>	All participants
11:00-12:15	Return from Dhungharka to Dhulikhel	All participants
12:15-13:00	Lunch	All participants
13:00-13:10	Move to hall for interaction program	
13:10-13:15	Introduction	All participants
13:15-13:20	Welcome and objective of the program	Mr. Ganesh Ram Shrestha, Executive Director, CRT/N
13:20-13:30	Brief introduction about the EVD project	Mr. SubasLamichhane
13:30-13:45	Video Documentary	All participants
13:45-14:20	Agenda for Interaction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants view on the EVD program</li> <li>• Possibility and process of including EVD concept in local planning process</li> <li>• Suggestions for possibility of replicating EVD program in sustainable manner in other parts</li> </ul>	Facilitation: Mr. Rajan Thapa, Program Manager, CEN
14.20-14.30	Remarks	Mr. Ram Prashad Dhital Executive Director AEPC
14:30-14:40	Remarks	Dr. PrabhuBudhathoki, Honorable Member, National Planning Commission
14:40-14:45	Vote of Thanks	Mr. Hari Gopal Gorkhali, Sr. Director, CRT/N

## ANNEX 2: PARTICIPANT LIST

S.N.	Name	Address/Organization	Designation	Contact No.	Email
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