

Workshop Report on Eco-Village Development (EVD) Concept: Low Carbon Approach to Climate Solution and Rural Development

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

4/7/2017



Organizing Partners



Supporting Partners



Background

Center for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) has been piloting implementation of Eco Village Development (EVD) concept to develop eco-villages in three villages of Kavrepalanchowk district namely Sikrigyang-9 village, Chalal VDC, Ladkhu-Chanaute village, Dhungkharkha VDC and Chyamragbesi-2 village, Chamrangbesi VDC within the regional project "Evidence Based Advocacy for Low-Carbon, Pro-Poor Sustainable Eco-Village Development (EVD) in South Asia". The project is being implemented in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal supported managerially by DIB and financially by CISU, Denmark. The results obtained from piloting EVD concept are astounding and the outcome does make a strong case for replicating the concept to other rural villages of Nepal. In the aftermath of earthquake when whole nation is working in order to ensure rehabilitation of Nepal Earthquake, 2015 victims, incorporating EVD concept in rehabilitation activities can contribute in resurrecting the lost livelihood of earthquake victims. EVD concept will be able to generate more localized solution reducing cost of implementation and generating greater output with values.

In recent times Nepal has taken significant steps regarding implementation of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) whose main objectives are in line with first three targets of goal 7 of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) that advocates ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030. Ministry of Federal Affairs and Development has published Environment Friendly Local Governance Framework (EFLG), 2013 which has highlighted role of renewable energy in reducing GHG emission, reduction in poverty and sustainable rural development. The EVD Concept has the potential to contribute in meeting the targets of national policies and programs as EVD Concept will emphasize on promoting rural energy application for enhancement of rural livelihood. EVD concept being low-carbon approach to climate solution and enhancing rural livelihood will definitely contribute in development of rural sector in climate friendly manner. The current plans and policies of the government make a strong case for integrating EVD concept with national development endeavors.

Objectives of Workshop

- To share learning of implementation of EVD concept at Kavre district.
- To get the feedback from stakeholder and policy makers regarding EVD concept as solution for rural development and climate change solution.
- Identify shortcomings and challenges to replicate EVD concept in rural parts of Nepal.

Organization of Workshop

Center for Rural Technology Nepal, (CRT/N) together with Clean Energy Nepal (CEN) jointly organized a workshop on **“Eco-Village Development Concept: low carbon approach to climate solution and rural development”** as a part of the project activity at the Bougainvilla, Kathmandu on 7th April, 2017. The main aim of the workshop was to share the experiences and lessons along with the success stories from 3 VDCs of Kavre district where the Eco Village Development project was piloted.

Proceedings of the Workshop

The workshop was informally hosted by Mr. Subas Lamichhane, Program Officer at CRT/N with a welcome note followed by introduction of the participants.



Mr. Lumin K. Shrestha, Advisor, CRT/N delivered the welcome speech on behalf of the organizing committee. He highlighted the activities and initiatives from CRT/N in eco-village development concept.

Mr. Shyam Kumar Rai, Deputy Director at CRT/N shared the objectives of initiating this EDV project. He shared that “EDV Project” aimed to uplift the living status of the people living in the Kavre through their participation in various EVD approaches, trainings on organic farming, composting, rain water harvesting and developing need based technologies. He also informed that the project was successfully implemented through the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and communities.





Ms. Shovana Maharjan, Program Officer, CRT/N then presented the brief introduction of CRT/N on how it has been developing, promoting, and disseminating the environmentally sound rural renewable energy technologies through capacity building of rural community since its establishment. She shared about the EDV project with the details about the selection of VDCs, achievement, trainings to local people on 14 different EDV approaches and its implementation. She highlighted that clean

energy, greenery promotion, encouraging organic farming, policy support, mass awareness, improving rural livelihood was prioritized in the project areas. She also emphasized that the project has been successfully fulfilling various indicators of the Environment Friendly Local Governance (EFLG) Framework, developed by Government of Nepal for developing environment friendly village and town.

Then Mr. Subas Lamichhane, Field Coordinator for this project shared various successful cases from the project area. Documentary on Eco-Village Development was also presented after that.

Dr. Ram Prasad Lamsal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Population, and Environment (MoPE) thanked the organizers for implementing the project and sharing the outputs in the workshop. He highlighted that Climate Smart Village, Eco Village, EFLG are the different terminologies, but the mottos these have set are all the similar. He congratulated CRT/N for initiating this project and suggested to replicate this project to other villages as well. He exemplified, that if all the developmental activities are included in government policies and programs, it helps to sustain and grow the development work. So, in this regards, he requested the organization to think on that way too and let the government at local levels feels ownership for the project after the handover.





Mrs. Makhamali Gole (Chyamrangbesi VDC), Mr. Manoj Shrestha (Dhungkharka, VDC) and Mr. Bir Bahadur Tamang (Chalal Ganesthan), the village representatives shared their ultimate happiness with the project team and CRT/N for helping them to uplift their livelihood and making them aware about the environmental consequences of wrong agricultural practices.

Ms. Makhmali Gole informed that they got trainings on organic farming, waste management, organic fertilizers, fish farming and on renewable energy, which has not only helped to manage their vegetation and farming but also has helped to improve their economy.

Similarly, Mr. Manoj Shrestha highlighted that they did not have knowledge on organic farming. Earlier they were using chemical pesticides haphazardly. But after getting training on new agricultural practices, there is a total transformation in the agricultural practices than before. Now they have been using homemade pesticide. They have also received knowledge on how to tackle the problem of pest invasion over the crops by using natural method. He shared that the quality and quantity of harvest / production has been highly improved.

According to Mr Tamang, EVD has helped them to rebuild the village and to improve the livelihood of people, which was badly destructed by earthquake of 2015. After getting training on agriculture practices, waste management, manure management, there is greenery in the village. He also shared that now they are able to produce sufficient vegetable for the village. All of them requested the organization to replicate the project in all other wards of the villages too.



Mr. Rajan Thapa, Program Manager, CEN, presented on Eco-village and its significance to low carbon strategies highlighting the majority (about 82%) of people living in the rural areas and signifying the importance of such projects on improving the living standard of the rural people. He added that the Low carbon development integrates the Mitigation, Development and Adaptation strategy. Highlighting

the average fuel consumption increasing at a rate of 13% per year, cleaner fuels and cleaner energy substantially helps in achieving sustainable and eco village concepts. He also clarified that the Low carbon development approaches fits in policies sharing some national initiatives by the government and its linkage in achieving the SDGs. He then informed that Nepal have climate change policy, Low carbon development strategies, Nationally Determined Contributions, to achieve those goals.

The workshop was then followed with informal Panel Discussion which was facilitated by Mr. Manjeet Dhakal, General Secretary of CEN and also a Board Member of the Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA).

Mr. Ugan Manandhar, Deputy Director, WWF, shared some of the projects implemented by WWF itself to achieve EFLG. He highlighted that we should also focus on mitigation approaches, than only sticking with the adaptation, as it will eventually reduce the investment on adaptation. Linkage of EVD with SDG is very good work.



Mr. Binod Shrestha, Director, Winrock International, appreciated the project for uplifting the livelihood through renewable energy. He suggested for focusing on coordination and implementation from local level and recommended working in a holistic and integrated way to achieve a greater impact. He also mentioned to try for a different business model and establish credit linkages for the sustainability, as grant based model is

not always long lasting.

Mr. Dil Raj Khanal, Environmental Lawyer and National Policy Advisor, FECOFUN, mentioned that in the changing context of federal structure of Nepal, EVD concept should be recognized and there should be clear operationalized institutional mechanism. He further emphasized that there is a need to develop a clear guide to help the local government.

Mr. Sahaj Man Shrestha from Nepalese Federation of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) shared his views on media approach and requested to utilize the media as a part of stakeholders as they can connect and disseminate the positive message to the wider audiences. He requested for the organization of similar workshop to the media group as well for the multiplier effect.

Mr. Keshav Raj Joshi, Environmental Inspector, Department of Environment (DoEnv), on the other hand shared some initiatives by the DoEnv itself which has incorporated 7 themes and has piloted climate smart villages in 14 districts. He expressed his happiness in hearing all the positive remarks from the villagers, which proves the success of the project.



Mr. Rana Bahadur Thapa, AEPC, making his remarks said that even though everyone talking about the adaptation, he personally feels mitigation should be focused. He suggested the team to prepare brochure of such success stories for the knowledge dissemination among the organizations itself.

Ms. Lachana Sthapit from CRT/N informed that the success of this project is also due to the supportive and receptive nature of the communities as they adopted plus accepted this project as their own and support of local partner organizations is also invaluable.

Mr. Anjit Gautam, District Energy Officer, Kavre, stressed the need of evaluation after the project completion. He highlighted that any kind of project should follow bottom up approach. There should be a critical analysis of gap as well. He also emphasized that the coordination with head of district committee is very important.

Whereas, Mr. Nanda Ojha, Senior Program Officer from AEPC also urged to think about the technology to upgrade the results as the biogas has 32-37% efficiency whereas LPG is 52% efficient.

Mr. Bharat Basnet, Village Secretary of Chaymrangbesi, Kavre, informed that about 316 households were affected by earthquake, these houses recovered and improved their livelihood after initiation of this project. Altogether 45 household from Chayamranbesi has been benefitted by this project. He also informed that 316 HH of Chyamrangbesiare declared Smoke free houses and the VDC will be declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) by the end of 2017.



Ms. Durga Karki, Journalist discussed the role of the women and significance of such projects as women are the ultimate group benefitting with such projects due to the nature of work they do. She added, “Women inclusion is must in such project.”

Dr. Deep Narayan Shah, NRM Specialist from IUCN highlighted the importance to scale up EVD and mention that the government institution should incorporate this concept into regular activity. He stressed for the integration for sustainability.

Mr. Kapindra Prasad Neupane, Village Secretary of Sikrighyang shared very interesting fact about the landscape of the project site. Clusters of houses are far from each other and no wards are visible from each other. Here CRT/N supported to restore all the 37 HH and uplifting their livelihoods after devastating earthquake of 2015. The products especially organic vegetable has been recognized throughout. He appreciated the strong coordination and commitment from all the stakeholders.



Mr. Dipesh Gurung from ECCA, said that the Vulnerability Assessment (VA) should be done with baseline survey for the sustainability of the project and to scale-up successfully. He wished to hear the lesson learnt from the project.

Mr. Lumin Kumar Shrestha clarified some of the queries and said that it is difficult for an organization to sustain the project in long run. But he is hopeful for the scale-up of the project as the communities have taken it very positively. He said that the concept has been appreciated and adopted by all the stakeholders, which is a positive feedback for us. He shared few loopholes regarding the project and inability to integrate the credit criteria, which would have helped in sustainability of the project. But regardless of this, the positive feedback have outweighs the loopholes. He thanked all the participants and distinguished guests for making the workshop a big success and generating very valid ideas.

On clarifying one of the query regarding the selection of the project sites Mr. Subas Lamichhane, informed that before initiating the project various meetings, interactions, dialogues were carried with VDC, DDC and with community and then plan were made accordingly. He also added that the need were selected by the community themselves, EVD team only play the role of facilitator and mentioned that the capacity building was one of the major focus of the project.



Mr. Guru Prasad Subedi, Under Secretary at MoFALD and Chief of Environment Section, EFLG emphasized while running a project, it should ensure maximum tangible impacts at the community level. He also added that Government is already implementing Environment Friendly Local Governance (EFLG) and some of the areas are announced as environment friendly community by government. EVD project also support EFLG framework of government and suggested to continue climate friendly initiatives in other villages as well.



Closing Remarks

Mr. Bharat Basnet, Chairperson, CEN and Prof. Dr. Ananda Shova Tamrakar, Chairperson, CRT/N delivered closing remarks to conclude the workshop. Mr. Basnet congratulated CRT/N for implementing this project and CEN for collaborating for organizing the workshop. He expressed that this locally adopted project help to reduce the migration of youth in search of opportunities and helps in developing family harmony. Dr. Tamrakar requested all the people to adopt mixed approach to go hand in hand for agriculture and energy development. She highlighted the need for regular monitoring, developing agro entrepreneurship and provision of Organic Certification.

Annex: I – Programme Schedule

S. No.	Time	Session	Resource Person	Remarks
1.	08:30 – 09:00	Tea and registration		
2.	09:00 – 09:15	Introduction		
3.	09:15– 09:25	Welcome	Mr. Lumin Kumar Shrestha, Advisor	CRT/N
4.	09:25-09:35	Objective of Workshop	Mr. Shyam Kumar Rai, Deputy Director	CRT/N
5.	09:35 – 10:05	Presentation on Introduction of The EVD Concept and project activities	Ms. Shovana Maharjan/ Mr. Subas Lamichhane,	CRT/N
6.	10:05 – 10:20	EVD-Video documentary	Ms. Shovana Maharjan	CRT/N
7.	10:20 – 10:40	Low Carbon Approach to Climate Solution	Mr. Rajan Thapa, Program Manager	CEN
8.	10:40– 11:10	Experience sharing from EVD project participant from Eco-Village	3 - Eco-village inhabitants	EVD –Project Area
	11:10 – 11:20	Tea Break		
9.	11:20 – 12:15	<u>Panel Discussion Topics</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you think EVD concept can play a complementary role in fulfilling the objective of EFLG? Can EVD concept contribute to increase access to energy services through application of clean renewable energy technologies? (AEPC) Can the EVD concept be included in regular planning process at local level as potential solution for village development? How EVD can address the worldwide burning issue of Climate mitigation and adaptation? Open Discussion and Q & A	Panelists <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. MoPE EFLG WWF CEN/CANSA (Facilitator: Mr. Manjeet Dhakal)	Panel discussion
10.	12:15 – 12:25	Review and Reflection of Workshop	Mr. Bharat Basnet Chairman, CEN	CEN
11.	12:25-12:35	Closing Remarks and Vote of thanks	Prof. Dr. Ananda Shova Tamrakar, Chairperson, CRT/N	CRT/N
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch		

Annex 2 – Participant List

S.N	Name	Organization	Designation	Contact No.	Email
1	Jasmita Khadgi	NYCA	Network Coordinator	9803049718	jasmita.khadgi@gmail.com
2	Yubraj Pandey	RSS	Reporter	9849877160	rskavre@gmail.com
3	Devraj K.C	Journalist	Reporter	9851116950	journalistdevraj@gmail.com
4	Gyan Babu Maharjan		Cameraman	9803028772	
5	Shankar Pd. Sharma	CEN	Program Officer	9841632023	shankar@cen.org.np
6	Damodar Karki	CRT/N	Board Member	9849127883	
7	Bhara Basnet	Chyamrangbesi	Secretary	9860387780	basnet.bharat13@gmail.com
8	Shiva Sharan Shrestha	GOA, Kavre	Chairman	9851162626	sss_ladku@gmail.com
9	Ram Hari Shrestha	Himchuli Consultancy	M.D	9851136805	shresrm88@gmail.com
10	Er. Damodar Pd. Dhital	CEN	Program Officer	9841966990	damodar@cen.org.np
11	Keshab Raj Joshi	Department of Environment	Environment Inspector	9841961832	keshabj@gmail.com
12	Dil Raj Khanal	FECOFUN	Policy Advisor	9741217370	dilcommon@gmail.com
13	Ram Prasad Lamsal	Ministry of Population and Environment	Joint Secretary		
14	Nanda Ram Baidya	CRT/N	Sr. Director	9851050473	nanda@crtnepal.org
15	Samjhana Lamichhane	District Coordination Committee, Kavre	Planning Officer	9841912550	samjhe_111@yahoo.com
16	Pramila Regmi	NGO Federation of Nepal	Field Officer	9849028331	pregmi@ngofederation.org
17	Manjeet Dhakal	CEN/CANSA	Advisor	9851079885	manjeet.dhakal@climateanalytics.org
18	Anjit Gautam	District Coordination Committee, Kavre	Energy Officer	9851064545	gautam.anjit@gmail.com
19	Makhamali Maya Gole	Chyamrangbesi- 2		980897470	
20	Kapindra Prasad Neupane	Chyamrangbesi- VDC	VDC Secretary	9841966941	
21	Gyanendra Sharma	CRT/N	Livelihood Expert	9841310737	gsharma@crtnepal.org
22	Dr. Ananda Shova Tamrakar	CRT/N	Chairperson	9841278748	astamrakar@gmail.com
23	Nanda Ojha	AEPC/NRREP	Senior Program Officer	9851100044	nanda.ojha@aepec.gov.np

24	Prakash Bhandari	AEPC	Engineer	9856063210	prakash.bhandari@aepec.gov.np
25	Bharat Basnet	CEN	Chairman	9851022180	
26	Subas Lamichhane	CRT/N	Program Officer	9849469546	lamichhane.subas@gmail.com
27	Shyam Rai	CRT/N	Deputy Director	981587411	shyamrai.kumar@gmail.com
28	Shovana Maharjan	CRT/N	Program Officer	9841458322	shovana@crtnepal.org
29	Pawan Singh	CRT/N	Account Officer	9841204817	pawan@crtnepal.org
30	Gyanu Bista	CRT/N	Program Officer	9868331744	gyanu@crtnepal.org
31	Kaushila Rai	CRT/N	Program Assistant	9841000530	kaushila@crtnepal.org
32	Rajan Thapa	CEN	Program Coordinator	9841661146	rajan@cen.org.np
33	Binod Shrestha	Winrock International, Nepal	Director	9851138663	binod@winrock.org
34	Rana Bahadur Thapa	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre	Program Manager	9851079425	rana.thapa@aepec.gov.np
35	Lachana Shresthacharya	CRT/N	Senior Program Officer	9841349771	lachana@crtnepal.org
36	Jyoti Prajapati	CEN	Program Assistant	9860298092	ivyoti@cen.org.np
37	Ugan Manandhar	WWF, Nepal	Deputy Director	9841380805	ugan.manandhar@wwfnepal.org
38	Biswo Bandhu Dahal	Chyamrangbesi, VDC		9849130197	
39	DipeshGurung	ECCA	Program Officer	9851179504	dipesh@ecca.org.np
40	Sahaj Man Shrestha	NEFEJ	President	9851040050	sahajms@gmail.com
41	Dr. Deep Narayan Shrestha	IUCN Nepal	NRM Specialist	9841398083	aquatic.deep@gmail.com
42	Lumin Kumar Shrestha	CRT/N	Sr. Director		lumink@crtnepal.org
43	Durga Karki	NEFEJ	Coordinator	9841338664	karkig@gmail.com
44	Kamala Shrestha	Dhugkharka VDC		9849779982	
45	Manoj Shrestha	Dhugkharka VDC		9823609072	
46	Bir Bahadur Tamang	Chalal, Ganesthan		9803076508	
47	Rosina Tamang	Chalal, Ganesthan			
48	Madhav Dahal	Chyamrangbesi		9843888565	
49	Guru Prasad Subedi	MOFALD	Under Secretary	9852063605	guru.subedi@hotmail.com
50	Ashma Vaidya	CRT/N	Sr. Program Officer	9841507379	ashmavaidya@gmail.com