

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS



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TALANOA SPACE - UNITING FOR CLIMATE ACTION.
 COP23, BONN, GERMANY. PHOTO: INFORSE.

Climate Change & Poverty: Problems to Be Solved

Greenhouse-gas emissions are on the rise again globally, after a pause in 2014-2015, and poverty reduction is not on track to reach the sustainable-development goals. Both problems are man-made and can be solved by humans. There is no lack of solutions. Renewable energy and energy efficiency are cheaper than ever, and there is an abundance of local solutions to meet basic needs, including energy access, improved stable food supply, and better livelihoods.

To solve these fundamental problems of our time, we need political will. As a starting point, we need political recognition of the local solutions that can remove barriers to poverty reduction and can lead to low-emission development. From the global climate negotiations to the local level, it is a question of policies.

This year, we will see the first attempt following the Paris Agreement to increase climate ambitions to reach the agreed limit of global warming of 1.5-2°C. Named the "Talanoa Dialogue" after a Fiji word for an inclusive, consensus-building process, the initiative will highlight where we want to go and how to get there. It has already started and it will continue throughout the year with reviews of the (clearly insufficient) commitments to climate actions.

We are very happy that two representatives of INFORSE members were selected for the first round of the global Talanoa Dialogue, which will take place this May. They will tell participants representing countries of the world and civil society how they see climate action and poverty reduction combined with better recognition of local solutions, based on their experiences in East Africa and in South Asia.

This Talanoa process is a very good opportunity to show leadership and to set the course for a future in which man-made greenhouse emissions are reduced to a net zero, combining sustainable energy with many other sustainable solutions.

Leadership is about looking to the future, about setting visions and realising them. In the 1960's, one vision was of sending a man to the moon. Now the vision must be that generations to come can live safely and without poverty, without having their lives and livelihoods endangered by climate change. We cannot realise our vision in 10 years, as the Apollo moon program realised the vision of the 1960s, but we can and must make a crucial first step in the coming decade.

Countries need to show leadership. The many countries that have agreed to the Paris Agreement must come together and agree on ways forward. They must set aside the internal differences that have kept back progress in the climate negotiations during 2017, and they must honour their commitments, including that of climate financing. Then, they can lead together, and show the few outsiders that it is better to be leaders into the future than to dream of yesterday's solutions, which now are ruining the climate - and our world with it.

In this issue, we show how INFORSE members in Africa, Asia, and Europe are working to promote local climate action that also will reduce poverty. On the back page, we invite readers to send plans for energy/climate transitions to the Talanoa Dialogue.

Gunnar Boye Olesen and Raymond Myles
 INFORSE Coordinators

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Photo on the front page:
 INFORSE's exhibition at COP23
 in Bonn, Germany. See p. 3.

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▲ "Promoting Local Climate Solutions to End Poverty" & INFORSE 25-year anniversary celebration at the INFORSE exhibition at UNFCCC COP23 in Bonn.



Get Local Actions into Climate Negotiations

Following tense negotiations during the UN Climate COP23 last November, the negotiations need to speed up to agree to the "Paris Rulebook", the Paris Agreement Work Programme, during COP24 as planned.

For key issues, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Guidelines and the Transparency Framework, only summaries of the different positions were agreed during COP23. We are concerned with the amount of work still required to conclude the substantive draft texts ahead of COP24 in Katowice in December, 2018. It is high time that the countries find common ground in Bonn on the main issues during the climate negotiations in Bonn and elsewhere. Only then can they reach the deadline set for COP24.

The key to success is more than agreeing a text. NDC guidelines must foster climate plans that are integral parts of national development plans. They must focus on poverty reduction and must include the many local solutions that combine climate mitigation and adaptation with poverty reduction and local development.

The Transparency Framework and the Global Stocktake of climate actions must recognise the local actions, which are harder to count than large-scale solutions.

Talanoa: Dialogue for Climate Ambition and Integration

The first joint process to raise climate ambitions, *The Talanoa Dialogue*, has started with calls for input.

The first physical, global Talanoa Dialogue will be in Bonn on May 6, 2018. INFORSE has responded with inputs on ways in which to make local solutions important parts of strategies.

We are happy to announce that two persons from INFORSE organisations will be among the 90 representatives of all non-state actors that are allowed to participate: Dumindu Herath from IDEA, Sri Lanka and Richard Kimbowa from UCSD, Uganda. Here, they will be allowed to present their experiences with local climate

Additionally, poverty reduction should be counted as a criterion of success for actions. Climate financing must increase, following the pledge by developed countries of 100 billion \$ by 2020.

There are also other crucial issues on the global climate table:

- The Technology Framework to be developed following the Paris Agreement must include impact assessments of technologies and must not promote potentially harmful technologies.
- The recently agreed Gender Action Plan (GAP) must be followed up with adequate financing to operationalise it.
- Regarding 'Loss and Damage', the outcome of the Suwa Expert Dialogue on May 2-3, 2018 in Bonn, must reflect the good faith necessary to resolve gridlock from contentious views on support and finance.

From INFORSE we have detailed proposals how the climate agreements can support local actions that reduce poverty. See the policy briefs that INFORSE has co-developed with a number of partners at www.inforse.org.

actions and to engage in a dialogue with negotiators on how this can be part of increased climate actions.

Coming Talanoa Dialogue Highlights:

In September, a special IPCC report on limiting climate change to 1.5°C, will be published. *October* brings the second deadline for written inputs.

Finally, in December, during COP24, the second Talanoa Dialogue will be held with state leaders.

Read more, including the inputs from INFORSE organisations, at www.inforse.org.

▲ Representatives of INFORSE members and NGO project partners at the INFORSE exhibition at UNFCCC COP23, Bonn, Germany, November 2017.

From left to right: Dumindu Herath, IDEA, Sri Lanka; Mohammad M. Hasan, Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh; Santosh Patnaik, CANSA; Shovana Maharjan, CRT, Nepal; Velma Oseko, SusWatch, Kenya; Gunnar Boye Olesen, INFORSE; Richard Kimbowa, UCSD, Uganda; Lykke Valentin, DIB, Denmark; Jeebanjyoti Mohanty, INSEDA, India; Judit Szoleczky, INFORSE; Zareen Myles, WAFD, India; Raymond Myles, INSEDA, India, and Mary Swai, TaTEDO, Tanzania.

**INFORSE at
UNFCCC SB48
Bonn, Germany
SIDE EVENT
EXHIBITION**

PROMOTE
LOCAL CLIMATE
SOLUTIONS
TO END
POVERTY



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**INFORSE at the
Talanoa Dialogue -
Uniting for Climate Action**

Read on INFORSE's and project partners' submissions & selected "story teller"s at SB48 on this page and on pages 4-6 and 7-9.



Promoting Implementation of the Paris Agreement in East Africa

By Mary Swai, TaTEDO, Tanzania; Susy Wandera, SusWatch Kenya; and Richard Kimbowa, UCSD, Uganda.

In Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda, a number of civil-society organisations are working together to raise climate ambitions in the project, "Promoting Implementation of the Paris Agreement in East Africa (PIPA)".

Tanzania Traditional Energy for Development Organization (TaTEDO), Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), and Sustainable Environmental Development Watch (SusWatch Kenya) have led the formation of national coalitions in their countries. These coalitions are campaigning for stronger actions in the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement, and also for NDCs with climate actions that reduce poverty and support development

Starting in 2017, the PIPA project partners and the coalitions have developed a series of policy briefs with their recommendations for the three countries as well as for the region of East Africa. They also are organising meetings with national decision-makers and with the East African Community (EAC), including the newly established East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Kampala, Uganda.

UNFCCC Inputs

The PIPA project partners have taken the issues to the UNFCCC climate negotiations and are calling for the Paris Agreement Work Program (PAWP) to take into account the situations in their countries. A series of policy briefs specify where the focus on poverty reduction and on local solutions must be highlighted in the PAWP. This course of action is promoted by partners during the climate negotiations in May, 2018 (UNFCCC SB48).

These activities build on the INFORSE-East Africa network. They also will improve INFORSE networking and make the resulting activities more sustainable.

"Red Flag" Policy Brief:

'Calling for Poverty Reduction in NDCs

The PIPA partners recently raised a "red flag" in the form of a Policy Brief, in which they asked East African Community stakeholders to integrate poverty reduction fully into implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in East Africa, where poverty is a massive issue.

This document, directed to the East African region, follows the PIPA Project Partners' submission at COP23. It calls for development of the "Paris Rule Book" to guide the NDCs and for their climate actions to combine mitigation of climate change with building of climate resilience, sustainable development, and, above all, reduction of poverty in developing countries.



African Climate Week with CSO Inputs - April 9-13, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya.

SUSWATCH Kenya, UCSD, and TaTEDO participated actively in African Climate Week (ACW2018), the theme of which was, "Climate Action for Sustainable Development: Driving Change in Africa", which took place on April 9-13, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. Some 800 delegates participated from 59 countries. The event was the first of what is expected to be an annual gathering. It aimed to support implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and climate action to deliver on the SDGs.

The organisations worked together to build momentum for the event, which was organized as a theme of the 10th African Carbon Forum (ACF).



PIPA at SB48 SIDE EVENT & EXHIBITION

PROMOTE LOCAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS TO END POVERTY



SEE BACK PAGE

PIPA in Talanoa Dialogue at UNFCCC SB48, Bonn.

The PIPA Partners' joint submission by UCSD on question 2: 'Where do we want to go?' was approved to be part of the Talanoa Dialogue.

More over, Richard Kimbowa from UCSD, Uganda was selected to be one of the 30 'story-teller's on question 3 'How do we get there?' at SB48 in Bonn.

Link: talanoadialogue.com/view-inputs



East African Regional Workshop - February 22 - 23, 2018, Kampala, Uganda

Regional knowledge-sharing workshop calls for all-inclusiveness in rolling out the Road Map for Implementation of the Paris Agreement in East Africa.

An East African regional knowledge-sharing workshop took place on February 22 - 23, 2018, in Kampala, Uganda. The 22 participants urged the authorities to embrace the Talanoa Dialogues and to participate fully in them from national to global levels. They also asked for the engagement of all actors in the NDC Partnership processes under way in the region, and for enablement of development actors to work with the new EACREEE, which is promoting renewable energies and energy efficiency in the East African Community region.

They further called for more public awareness of, and for inclusive implementation of, Uganda's Green Growth Development Strategy and of other similar

national strategies in Kenya and Tanzania. They identified a need to monitor progress regularly during implementation.

On the global climate-change negotiations, participants urged East African Governments to follow negotiations closely, based on the outcomes from COP23. Of particular concern are the sticky and pending issues like the Paris Agreement Work Program, including the transparency framework, as well as climate finance.

On the EAC Road Map for Implementation of the Paris Agreement, the participants called upon CSOs to follow up on opportunities emerging in its implementation, including efforts to mobilize all communities. This will be an important contribution to the long-term objective of the Paris Agreement.



▲ East African Regional knowledge-sharing workshop, February 22-23, 2018 in Kampala, Uganda.

UGANDA: Civil Society Stakeholders' Pioneer Input to Talanoa Dialogue

Talanoa Dialogue Event in Kampala - 6 April 2018

UCSD organised a pioneering one-day Talanoa Dialogue event in Uganda, to raise Civil Society Organisations' (CSOs) awareness of the Talanoa Dialogue. The event focused on how CSOs and other Non-Party Stakeholders can be engaged before the first Inter-session Talanoa Dialogue in May, 2018, where both Party and Non-Party Stakeholders will interact for the first time.

The event, which attracted 20 participants, was held in Kampala on April 6, 2018. During this Dialogue, UCSD focused on the core question, *Where are we?*,

based on the generic sub-questions from the Fiji and Polish Presidencies. Through interactive and participatory group sessions as well as in a plenary brainstorm (with the help of coloured cards), participants collectively and individually answered the sub-questions, helping to build the "story" of Uganda's current situation, as they perceive it.

This "Ugandan story" of "Where we are?" will be collated and submitted through the Talanoa Dialogue Portal for inclusion in the report to the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the UNFCCC.



▲ Where we are? Talanoa dialogue in Kampala, Uganda on April 6, 2018.

KENYA: Inputs, Campaigns to National Plans and Goals

Input to National Climate Change Action Plan

SusWatch Kenya expanded its efforts to sensitize state, private-sector, and non-state stakeholders to the importance of incorporating poverty eradication in the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). It also highlighted and discussed the status of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Its publications on these topics are in synergy with the ongoing process of developing the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2018-22, which has a distinct pro-poor focus. SusWatch is represented both in the NCCAP task force and in the adaptation technical working group, which is providing the necessary expertise on actions.

Pro-Poor Low-Carbon to Achieve Big Four Goals

The Government of Kenya has prioritised four key agendas for its development, known as the Big Four: Adding value and increasing manufacturing's contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) by 15%; food security; increasing universal health coverage; and construction of affordable housing. Underpinning these activities is the intention of lifting a significant number of Kenyans out of poverty.

To achieving these goals, Kenya must also address climate change and implement the Climate Change Act of 2016. This Act stipulates that "the guiding values and principles of low carbon climate change resilience and development shall bind all level of government and all persons; and be applied in all sectors of the economy by the national and county governments".

Tree Planting and Climate Talk

SusWatch organised a tree-planting session at the Langata West Primary, a public school, and Climate Talks at Kenyatta University, on April 4 and 6, 2018, respectively. The green-energy campaign for tree-planting demonstrated best practices towards reducing emissions and towards increasing tree cover by 10%, the latter of which is specified in both the Constitution and the NDC.

Talanoa Dialogue in Nairobi

The Kenyan government hosted a Talanoa Dialogue open discussion, which created a platform for sharing insights at the end of the African Climate Week on April 13, 2018 in Nairobi.



▲ Climate Talks at Kenyatta University, and tree planting at the Langata West Primary school in Nairobi, Kenya on April 4-6, 2018.

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TANZANIA: Promoting Integration of Pro-poor Low-Emission Solutions in the NDC of Tanzania

Tanzania submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the UNFCCC in September, 2015 and signed the Paris Agreement in April, 2016. Currently, processes are underway to review the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and to ratify the Paris Agreement. The ratification was endorsed unanimously by the Tanzanian Parliament on April 3, 2018.

At the start of the PIPA project, most of the activities focused on mobilizing and building capacity of the CSOs. Thereafter, campaign activities followed, including use of media houses, issuing of policy briefs, round-table discussions, meetings, workshops, and leveraging of national climate-related events.

Climate Policy Briefs

Between October, 2017 and January, 2018, two policy briefs were developed and issued to the targeted ministries as well as to other stakeholders in Tanzania.

- The first brief aimed to sensitize policy-makers to the need to prioritize small-scale pro-poor low-emission solutions in the NDCs currently under review.
- The second brief aimed to encourage the government of Tanzania to accelerate implementation of the Paris Agreement, including its ratification.

CSO Coalition Calls for Local Climate Action

On February 23, 2018, TaTEDO and the coalition organized a round-table discussion to provide a chance for the targeted ministries to clarify and to hear their views regarding the recommendations provided in the policy brief as well as to solicit more ideas and contributions from other stakeholders. 32 People participated in the discussion with representation from ministries, government agencies, development partners, research institutions, media, and the CSOs. In line with the policy briefs, various issues were discussed, including roles of various ministries in the biomass energy sector; population dynamics; behaviours in energy consumption; and drivers of deforestation. Some of the revised recommendations that were proposed to be submitted to the relevant ministries for considerations were as follows:

- NDCs' and different sectors' policies, strategies, programmes, and plans should integrate pro-poor low-emission climate actions.
- Although the focus of the country is to switch from use of biomass to other fuels for cooking, meanwhile the Ministry of Energy should recognize and place biomass as sources of energy, rather than as by-products, in the existing policies, programmes, and actions, since its use will continue for the foreseeable future. Serious efforts should be taken to harmonize existing legislation as to how issues of biomass can be administered and managed sustainably.
- The Ministry responsible for climate change should ensure that the NDCs' reviewing process is informed by evidence-based research, studies, and up-to-date data.
- Serious efforts should be undertaken by the relevant authorities to mobilize funds from various sources, internal and external, to facilitate implementation of NDC actions such as development of local/domestic technology, development of sustainable resilient infrastructure, and others.



▲ Climate NGO Policy Briefs targeting ministries and stakeholders in Tanzania.

▼ Round table discussion participants, 20th February, 2018, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



Read More on the Promoting Implementation of the Paris Agreement in East Africa (PIPA) Project at inforse.org/africa/East_Africa_PIPA.htm and at the Partners' websites:



Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Uganda
www.ugandacoalition.or.ug



SustainableEnergy (VedvarendeEnergi), Denmark
www.ve.dk



Traditional Energy for Development Organization (TaTEDO), Tanzania
www.tatedo.org



International Network for Sustainable Energy
www.inforse.org
www.inforse.org/africa



Sustainable Environmental Development Watch (SusWatch), Kenya
www.suswatchkenya.org/nature/pipa-project



The PIPA Project is supported by the Fund for Climate and Environment, CISU - Civil Society in Development, Denmark.



Eco-Village Development as Solution to Climate Change & SDGs

By Shovana Maharjan, CRT-N, Nepal; Mohammad M. Hasan, Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh; Dumindu Herath, IDEA, Sri Lanka; Jeebanjyoti Mohanty, INSEDA, India; and Santosh Patnaik, CANSA.

INFORSE members in South Asia are cooperating within INFORSE-South Asia and with Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) to raise awareness of local climate solutions included in the Eco-Village Development (EVD) Concept. The Concept is communicated at UNFCCC COP side events, exhibition, and the Talanoa Dialogue. In the following pages, there are highlights of publications, regional and national activities, plans from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

Regional Presentations

Regional Meeting: Next Steps towards Scaling UP Eco-Village Development (EVD) Solutions, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 12 February, 2018

A regional event was organised by CANSA in partnership with the EVD project partners, IDEA, CRT/N, Grameen Shakti, INSEDA, INFORSE, and DIB.

Among the 30 participants were civil-society organisations, academicians, and government representatives from Sri Lanka and from Nepal.

The event revolved around the notion of accessing finance for EVD activities that have both mitigation and adaptation benefits. The event commenced with an introduction to the concept of EVD, with its applicability in varied socio-economic, geographic, and agro-climatic conditions in South Asia. The partner organizations shared their perspectives on challenges in propagating EVD solutions.



Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, Bangkok, Thailand, 28-30 March, 2018

The regional UN preparatory forum focused on 6 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It prepared recommendations to the UN high-level event to be held in July, 2018 in New York. The EVD Concept and its interlinkages to the SDGs

The challenges highlighted to finance EVD solutions for replication are:

- **Financial gap:** The emphasis on larger energy and infrastructure projects creates a barrier for small-scale local solutions, particularly in obtaining funding from Green Climate Fund (GCF). Mismatch of project sizes and of types of financing limit access to funds for EVD solutions such as off-grid lighting products.
- **Knowledge gap:** Lack of awareness and low climate-finance literacy exist among end-users. Insufficient knowledge in measuring, reporting, and communicating co-benefits of carbon-abatement and adaptation hinders replication.
- **Policy gaps:** Integration of EVD solutions into the development plans of local governments has been a challenge. Working with new local governments is difficult because of their unfamiliarity with the EVD concept.

The way forward to more widespread adoption of EVD includes: documentation of carbon abatement and of co-benefits for climate adaptation; capacity building; co-operation between government departments and civil society; and assistance in marketing EVD solutions. *Read more details in the Proceedings (link: page 9).*

were presented by Grameen Shakti at the official parallel session on SDG7, and at the Round-Table on SDG7, which was co-organised by UN ESCAP, UNEP, UNDP, and ADB.

The participants concluded that the Report of the Round Table should include recommendations to integrate renewables into development planning.

▲ Eco-Village Development Concept's solutions including renewable energy technologies like biogas, solar powered electricity, improved water mills, and improved cook stoves.



EVD at UNFCCC SB48 SIDE EVENT & EXHIBITION



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▲ Expert consultation meeting and capacity-building demonstration on institutional stoves in Sri Lanka. Photos by IDEA.



▲ Dialogue Meeting and solar fruit and vegetable dryer in India. Photos by INSEDA.



► Article continued from the previous page

EVD Publications



▲ The 60-page Joint EVD publication "Eco-Village Development as Climate Solution - Proposals from South Asia" is available in English, Nepali, Bangla, Hindi, and Sinhala. Download from: www.inforse.org/asia/Pub_EcoVillageDev_SouthAsia.htm

▲ WHITE PAPER: Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Potential of Eco-Village Development Solution. Download from: www.inforse.org/asia/EVD.htm

Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, IDEA has worked to link and to mainstream **EVD with the 10000 Bluegreen villages (BGV)** national initiative. The BGV programme was launched nationally, focusing on the INDCs, as a commitment to the Paris Agreement and has made considerable progress. In response, IDEA has achieved several progressive milestones in consultations as well as in the sharing of EVD information and experience with the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MMDE), which acts as national coordinator of the BGV initiative. During discussions with the Ministry, IDEA succeeded in bringing a representative from Sri Lanka to the EVD Regional Event to share the BGV experiences in Bangladesh in 2018. Since then, MMDE has been working closely with IDEA through expert consultation meetings to develop proposals and guidelines for the BGV initiative. Moreover, recommendations have been submitted as inputs for BGV guideline development, giving light to key learnings, approaches, and solutions adopted in the EVD concept. These inputs by IDEA have been acknowledged by the Ministry.

At the local level, a **Training of Trainers (ToT)** in village development planning for development officials in Matale district was carried out successfully. **Capacity-building** activities and demonstrations also were held, with collaborative inputs from local government.

In efforts to link up EVD with BGV, IDEA will continue to collaborate with MMDE by organizing an expert consultation meeting to improve the village development guidelines. This meeting will highlight further the process of expanding EVD in Sri Lanka, and it will supplement the **national event planned** in May, and the **Environment Day** events in June, 2018.

India

Dialogue meetings and training sessions organized by INSEDA pave the way towards more Eco Village Development (EVD) solutions in India.

- **Block-Level Dialogue: 9 March, 2018, Uttarakhand** Almost 50 people participated in the event at Chamba, Tehri Garwal district, in Uttarakhand State. The event raised awareness of EVD, which effects integrated sustainable development of the village through implementation of low-carbon green technological solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation. The 13 speakers comprised the chief development officer of the district, officials from different governmental departments at block- and district levels, scientists of Agricultural University, elected village members, women farmers, local NGOs, a partner NGO from Rajasthan State (SOHARD), and media, along with volunteers and staff of INSEDA. Some of the results are:

- **An avenue was created for more linkages** among NGOs, governmental departments like agriculture and horticulture, local governance at village-, block-, and district levels, and farmers.
- Development of an existing village as an **EVD Model Village** was suggested, and the district representative assured participants of support within available resources.

Other outcomes of activities, and plans are:

- Volunteers have been recognised by the different departments and media people for their work on climate change at 6 villages of Uttarakhand.
- About 420 women farmers of 6 villages are planning to form a company that can get group certification for organic produce along with benefits such as invitations to display and to sell their produce.

Eco Village Development (EVD) Concept

The EVD concept addresses the rapid-development imperative and emission-reduction objectives of developing countries. It involves low-carbon, low-cost, locally adapted solutions. It reduces poverty and drudgery in the lives of women, generates income, and improves lifestyles of rural people.

The concept includes mapping of resources, and dialogue on needs as part of the planning. The solutions include renewable energy (e.g., biogas, micro hydro, solar cells, solar dryers), efficient cookstoves, water management, agriculture, and gardening. Combined together, these solutions can generate improved agricultural productivity; diversify livelihood; generate employment; and provide affordable, safe, clean energy for lighting and cooking. Most EVD solutions have multiple effects, as they address both climate-change mitigation and adaptation, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



▲ EVD dialogue meeting and a poster showing EVD technologies in Nepal.
Photos by CRT/N.

▲ EVD at exhibition and solar PV powered water pump in Bangladesh.
Photos by Grameen Shakti.

Nepal

Center for Rural Technology (CRT/N) has organised events and training sessions. Many more are planned. The topics include renewable energy technologies (RETs), financing, women's role, bee-keeping, and composting. CRT/N shared knowledge on EVD in meetings with ICIMOD and the World Bank. It also began cooperation with the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPIC). In 2018, the two major dialogue events organised were:

- Local Financing - 7 March, 2018 in Kavre District

The participants from local financing institutes were encouraged for *development of an innovative financing model* to sustainable development of villages by residents in cooperation with the local government and AEPIC. The participants from the local communities, local governments, and 11 local financing institutions (cooperatives, saving, credit-limited, and micro-finance) pledged to cooperate and to support the creation of a conducive environment that will channel subsidies and loans into development of RETs (biogas and improved water mill) and into sustainable village development. In Nepal, about 2.5 million people are using local financial institutions; therefore, the innovative financing model can lead to a breakthrough.

- RETs & Women's Role - 6 April, 2018, Bethanchok

The event promoted integrating renewable-energy technologies for livelihood enhancement, and the importance of the women's participation in energy usage, management, decision-making and income-generation. 28 elected representatives from the Bethanchok rural municipality committed to giving high priority to women's participation as well as to collaborate on promotion and development of RETs.

Bangladesh

Grameen Shakti continues showcasing the concept of Eco-Village Development (EVD) in several forums in Bangladesh. In 2018, these included:

- National Green Development Conference GDC-2018 and the Green Tech Expo on 29 March, 2018 in Dhaka.

The event was organised in association with private-sector, governmental, and developmental organizations. Its aim was to focus on the key issues closely related to green growth and to sustainable development.

Consensus was reached by speakers including economists, trade analysts, and business leaders, that investment in eco-friendly or green technologies will ensure sustainable economic growth and will generate employment opportunities.

Many people visited Grameen Shakti's exhibition stall featuring the EVD concept. These included the Danish Ambassador, who inaugurated the event as chief guest; a former Bangladesh Bank governor; and a Member of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA). The stall included an illustrating model of a village. All visitors were very interested in hearing about EVD as a unique concept to combat climate change and to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

- EVD Regional Conference, Dhaka 12-13 Feb. 2018

Several Bangladeshi NGOs were represented who discussed the challenges. Among these NGOs were COAST, BCAS, BAPA, Farmers' Voices, Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, Jagoron Organic and Safe Agro and Sustain for Peoples' participation.

Among plans are: A round-table and national meeting in April-May, 2018. An EVD-song based on Bangla folk music to be presented at the village meetings.

EVD Publication Coming Soon: Training of Trainers (ToT) Manual



EVD in Talanoa Dialogue at UNFCCC SB48, Bonn.

The EVD Partners' joint submission by INFORSE was approved to be part of the Talanoa Dialogue under Question 2. 'Where do we want to go?'

More over, it was selected to be told as one of the 30 'stories' on Question 2.

The 'story-teller' will be Dumindu Herath from INFORSE / IDEA, Sri Lanka.

Link: talanoadialogue.com/view-inputs



Read more: Publications, Policy Briefs, Event Proceedings at the Project's and at the Partners' web site.
www.ecovillagedevelopment.net & www.inforse.org/asia/EVD.htm

EVD was developed by INFORSE-South Asia members in cooperation with CANSA within the framework of Projects in 2015-18. The Projects are supported by the Climate and Environment Fund of CISU - Civil Society in Development, Denmark.

www.crtnepal.org
www.gshakti.org
www.ideasilanka.org
www.inseda.org
www.inforse.org/asia
www.cansouthasia.net
www.dib.dk
www.inforse.org





▲ Baseline Studies on "Accelerating Implementation of Regional Policies on Clean Energy" are published: Regional study is in English and French. National studies: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Niger, Mali, Senegal, Togo in French with English summaries.



▲ INFORSE West Africa ACE-WA project meeting in Dakar, Senegal April 2018.

Pushing Sustainable Energy in West Africa

In the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the countries have agreed to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. Now, a number of civil society organisations (CSOs) in INFORSE West Africa have analysed the actions and are proposing to boost the adoption and use of clean energy by people on the ground. In the countries of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal, CSOs have formed coalitions to advocate for this. They also are active at the regional level.

Regional Actions

A high CSO priority in West Africa is to abolish common import taxes on renewable energy and on energy-efficiency equipment. This will improve the ability of poor people to buy, for instance, solar lamps and solar home systems. It also will allow more investments in renewable electricity plants, eventually reducing the need of government subsidies for electricity. With the ECOWAS internal market, harmonising import taxes is important.

Another regional CSO focus is the local, social effects of large solar and wind installations, now being installed in the region. They are made for the national grid, but locally they can yield problems. Often, the local population does not get electricity while they cannot use the land as they once did. There should be clear compensation and local access to cheap electricity. Then, the new installations can boost local development. Regional guidelines and awareness can help this to happen.

Mali

Mali Folkecenter Nyata and a coalition of CSOs are working on a number of topics:

- Harmonise electricity prices between the central grid and mini-grids;
- Increase the share of renewable energy to 100% by 2050;

- Properly treatment of waste from renewable energy
- Integrate renewable energies into the different development sectors; and
- Appropriate training for renewable energies.

Burkina Faso

CEAS and the national coalition of CSOs for the Promotion of Renewable Energies and Access to Sustainable Energy in Burkina Faso (CNPDER) are promoting higher quality of renewable-energy equipment. Most focus is on imported equipment, such as solar PV equipment, which too often is of low quality with low lifetimes. They are also undertaking a study on the relationship between training and the quality of RE services.

Senegal

ENDA Energie and a coalition of CSOs is working on:

- Regulatory Framework: Advocate for the enforcement of laws to accelerate the energy transition
- Energy transition vs hydrocarbons : advocate to maintain the momentum of the dynamics of energy mix against the future status of oil and gas producing country; to finance renewable energies and energy efficiency with the earnings from oil;
- Energy and Territories: local energy governance; encouraging the integration of renewable energies in development sectors to fight poverty and increase climate resilience;
- Energy Efficiency: Driving the integration of energy efficiency into a popular dynamic; encourage civil society to become involved in policy dialogues.

Next steps

The activities will continue during 2018. In parallel, the partners are developing proposals for continued activities for INFORSE West Africa and are preparing a regional conference in November in Dakar, Senegal. See www.inforse.org/africa/West_Africa_ACE.htm.



Milk and Development
The partners to the ACE-WA project are all engaged in practical projects, as ENDA-Energie that is running the "PROGRES-Lait" program for development of the milk value chain through expanded access to solar powered electricity to ensure better milk and a regular income for farmers. The solar powered mini-grid will also provide electricity for milling, welding, households, etc. The program is supported by the European Union, Senegal and Mauritania.

▲ "Proges-Lait" rural milk collection center, with the solar PV mini-grid, Kolda District, Senegal.

The activities are part of the project "Accelerating Implementation of Regional Policies on Clean Energy in West Africa" (ACE-WA), coordinated by ENDA-Energie and SustainableEnergy, Denmark; supported by CISU, Denmark, www.cisu.dk

EU 2030 Policies

By Gunnar Boye Olesen,
INFORSE-Europe Coordinator



In EU, negotiations for the climate policies leading up to 2030 are coming into their final phase, with negotiations between the EU countries, the EU Parliament, and Commissions on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy-market design (called Trialogue negotiations).

High on the agendas are energy targets. An energy-efficiency target supported by the countries and by the Commission is a 30% increase in efficiency for the period of 2005-2030, while the Parliament promotes 35%.

For renewable energy, the EU countries maintain their position of 27% by 2030, while the Parliament is calling for 35%, and the Commission has a study from the International Renewable Energy Agency concluding that the cost-effective investments in EU add up to 34% renewables by 2030.

Renewable Energy Communities

The proposed EU Directive for renewable energy contains proposals for local renewable-energy communities (locally owned renewables), and for "prosumers" (consumers that also produce energy).

The drafts include provisions for the local actors' access to renewable-energy support, enabling frameworks for the local producers, acknowledgement of the value of local production, and a strong definition

of renewable-energy communities, to ensure their local basis and internal democracy.

The EU Parliament has agreed proposals to ensure all this better. Presently, INFORSE-Europe, in cooperation with the Community Energy Coalition (with Friends of the Earth Europe and others), is advising the EU countries to accept Parliament's proposals.

Ecodesign – Energy Savings and More

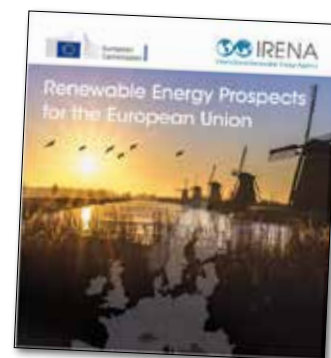
The EU's regulation of energy efficiency of products, and the related energy labels, have been big successes for EU energy efficiency with large energy savings achieved.

For boilers, the products with the largest total energy consumption, the Ecodesign regulation has led to a massive change to condensing boilers.

Now a review has started, and evaluations have shown large improvements, but also potential to do more. Better controls can make the condensing boilers work better, the regulation for solar heating should be improved, etc.

Another new focus of Ecodesign is on the circular economy with better repairability, reusability, and recyclability. INFORSE-Europe is working with the Coolproducts Campaign on Ecodesign.

See: www.inforse.org/europe/eu_ecodesign.htm and www.coolproducts.eu.



See IRENA's Report: Renewable Energy Prospects for the European Union at <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/events/launch-irena-report-renewable-energy-prospects-european-union>



INFORSE-Europe Activities



INFORSE-Europe at the EU Sustainable Energy Week: Energy Communities & Eco-Design June 5 & 6, 2018 in Brussels, Belgium

The event "Solidarity and Energy Communities, How Community Energy Alleviates Energy Poverty, Both Rural and Urban" will be organised by INFORSE-Europe in cooperation with Friends of the Earth Europe and others as part of the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) in the EU's Charlemagne Building, June 6, 2018 at 14-15.30.

The Coolproducts Campaign, in which INFORSE-Europe participates, is also organising an event at the same place during EUSEW, about market surveillance of energy-efficient products, June 5, 2018 at 16-17.30.

Register for free for the events at: www.eusew.eu/policy-conference-2018.

EU Information in Denmark

INFORSE-Europe is cooperating with SustainableEnergy, Denmark, on engaging youth in debates of EU's sustainable-energy strategies, starting in June, 2018. The activities are supported by the Danish "Europa-Nævnet" for activities in Denmark.

Read more on: www.inforse.org/europe/projects.htm.

Project Development

Beginning with the INFORSE-Europe seminar in August, 2017, several INFORSE-Europe members are cooperating to develop new projects and collaborations.

As the projects are developed, they will be highlighted on www.inforse.org/europe.

▼ INFORSE-Europe group celebrating INFORSE's 25-year anniversary holding the old issues of Sustainable Energy News at the INFORSE-Europe Seminar at the Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy in Denmark in August 2017.



PROMOTE
LOCAL CLIMATE
SOLUTIONS
TO END
POVERTY



**INFORSE SUSWATCH INSEDA
UNFCCC SB48
BONN, GERMANY
EXHIBITION**

APRIL 30 - MAY 10, 2018

SIDE EVENT

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018

16:45-18:15

Room: Berlin

Local Actions for Poverty Reduction & Village Development in NDCs & Paris Agreement Work Programme - East Africa and South Asia

Speakers /Moderators:

East Africa:

- Richard Kimbowa, UCSD, Uganda
- Nobert Nyandire, SusWatch, Kenya
- Jensen Shuma, TaTEDO, Tanzania
- Dr. Charles Mutai, Director, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources, Kenya

South Asia:

- Santosh Patnaik, CAN South Asia
- Shovana Maharjan, CRT, Nepal
- Jagdeep Sharma, INSEDA, India
- Mohammad Mahmodul Hasan Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh
- Limasangla Jamir, INSEDA, India
- Dumindu Herath, IDEA, Sri Lanka
- Md. Ziaul Haque, Director, Ministry of Environment & Forest, Bangladesh
- Dr. P. C. Maithani, Advisor, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India
- Gunnar Boye Olesen, INFORSE

www.inforse.org/sb48.php3



**INFORSE is a
world-wide network of
145 non-governmental
organizations in
60 countries**

INFORSE was established in 1992 at the UN "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro to promote a transition to efficient and sustainable use of renewable energy.

The organisations work with renewable energy and sustainable development to improve environment and to reduce poverty through advocacy as well as by raising awareness.



Lobby United Nations:

INFORSE has NGO consultative status with the UN ECOSOC since 1998, and with the UNFCCC since 2002. It has sent delegations to many of the Climate COP-meetings as observers as well as organized official side events and exhibitions.



Lobby European Union:

INFORSE-Europe is registered in the EU lobby register and has a permanent seat at the EU Ecodesign Directives' consultations.



Communication:

The communication is facilitated by this newsletter, Sustainable Energy News, a database of more than 1000 relevant contacts.

Supporters of the network and projects have included the EU, DANIDA, SIDA, the Nordic Council of Ministers, AirClim, ECOS, Swiss Fund, and the Danish Europa-Nævnnet.



Projects: INFORSE's member organizations often work together to achieve progress through policy advocacy, to build capacity through exchanges of information and of services, and through cooperation projects. These include:

- "Southern Voices on Climate Change", an NGO capacity-building program.
- Low-Carbon, Pro-Poor Development Strategies in Africa and South Asia.
- Eco-Village Developments as Climate Solutions in South Asia.
- Social participation in local energy planning in Poland.
- Local sustainable energy planning and advice center in Belarus.
- 100% renewable-energy scenarios for the EU, for Denmark, Baltic Countries, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary etc.
- Cool Products Campaign for the EU EcoDesign Directive.
- NGO cooperation projects in Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and Denmark.
- EU and sustainable energy information and debates in Denmark
- Creation of a network of NGOs and researchers on low-carbon scenarios.
- Educational programs e.g., SPARE, DIERET, and a database of school materials.
- Compiling documentations of successful cases and of a renewable-technology manual for South Asia.

WWW.INFORSE.ORG



www.facebook.com/INFORSE
www.twitter.com/INFORSE_ORG
CAUSE: Support 100 % Renewable Energy World
www.causes.com/sustainableenergy100

**WHO'S GETTING
READY FOR
100% Renewables
to Talanoa ?**

Raising Ambition for Zero:

Call for Scenarios and Plans until June 1, 2018.

INFORSE and Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Wales, UK, are now searching for global, regional, national, and even sub-national scenarios as well as plans for transitions to net-zero emissions, to low-carbon development, and to 100% renewable energy by mid-century, as demanded by the Paris Agreement. We will include this in a new report for the "Talanoa Dialogue" process of the UNFCCC.

Please send your proposal to, and ask for a template from, paul.allen@cat.org.uk (write "Ambition for Zero" in subject line). Deadline for Submissions: 1st June 2018.