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The pictures are from the articles of this issue.

The drawing illustration on this page is from the women section of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's statistics.
www.ipu.org

More Women Needed for Decisions

Break the "Glass Ceiling" on Sustainability



Women are underrepresented in decision-making. Even though women got voting rights in Finland in 1907 and throughout Europe in the following years, the number of women in the parliaments of EU countries is still only 24 % on average. In the world the average is only 17%. It is also well known that women still get lower wages for the same job; and the typical "woman jobs" like teaching and nursing pay less than most "men jobs". Though there is a substantial positive tendency in the development, e.g., the increase in the number of women students allows a certain optimism that the "glass ceiling" will disappear some day.

While less empowered than men, women are more concerned about environmental risks, and they are more in favour of sustainable solutions, in energy as well as in many other fields.

Mothers were also among those who started the antinuclear movements in Ukraine and in many other countries. It seems as though women remember better than men. Or maybe men just have a selective memory, such as the many male state leaders that argue for nuclear power as a means to avoid climate change. Nuclear industry proponents pressure decision makers into behaving as though it were better to build big nuclear power plants than to build more of the smaller renewable-energy power plants. They refuse to acknowledge, let alone address, obvious issues, e.g., that if a solar- or wind-power plant has a failure you just won't have electricity for a while, but if a nuclear power plant fails it can cause far larger problems, including illnesses and/or deaths in many people. .. as the wind blows....

To increase the gender balance the society can use regulations such as gender quotas for boards, educational institutes, and work places. Do we need these? Do we need to force men to share the childcare leave? - The male establishment is against, but examples show that some of these instruments actually do work. More women among decision makers, and boards members are assets that make companies, and states more competitive and creative as women tend to look for new alternative solutions to problems.

INFORSE, the NGO network that produces this newsletter, has shown that technically it is possible to have a 100% renewable energy supply by 2050 or earlier. We, together with the NGO community, work to spread the required knowledge and to secure the political will for the transition. There is a process ahead. Renewable-energy and energy-efficiency solutions are available and their use is increasing. The EU leaders have set targets, and the EU Commission has proposed legal frameworks by which to achieve them. The change has started, but it needs to be made faster.

I think there are *two main scenarios* for the future: Either there will be an *environmental catastrophe* or there will be a *cleaner planet supplied with renewable energy*, where nuclear and fossil-fuel plants will be shown as museums, much as abandoned coal mines are shown nowadays.

Which way the world goes is depending on us who live now, and on the young people who will be the politicians of tomorrow. It makes me optimistic when I see that more young people and more women can see the risks of the present solutions and the possibility for a sustainable future.

I am looking forward to a new era, to a time when women are more equally represented in parliaments, governments, and boards of companies. I believe that they can make the necessary changes in their countries, in the EU and at the coming international climate negotiations in Poland, in Copenhagen, and beyond.

In this issue, we collected articles from NGOs showing their activities on gender, climate and energy. Some of them are seeking global influence, while others are concrete local efforts in developing countries, where women's legal and social status as well as educational level are often much lower than men's. Women are exposed to the health hazards, developing smoke-related illnesses when they cook on inefficient stoves in a smoky kitchen. The girls are the ones who spend their time collecting firewood instead of going to school. Here and in the earlier Women-Theme issues of SEN you can also read about the improvements that could be brought about in women's lives through sustainable energy solutions.

Judit Szoleczky
editor



"Don't nuke the climate"

Women strongly opposed nuclear energy at the UNFCCC in Bali

By Sabine Bock, energy and climate change coordinator, WECF



„Don't nuke the climate“
Action made by WECF,
Munich Environmental Institute, WISE,
Ecodefense and other partners, in front
of the UNFCCC conference
centre, Nusa Dua, Bali,
Indonesia.

From Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), we were present with a delegation of 6 women environmental leaders at the UN Framework Climate Change Conference in Bali. There, we voiced the concerns of the WECF network over the renewed strong push for nuclear energy, which is being promoted as a solution to climate change. WECF members work in regions that have suffered severe nuclear damage near Chernobyl, Ukraine, and Mayak, Russia, as well as near uranium mines in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia.

We addressed the immense negative health effects of nuclear energy at every step of production and highlighted the experience of the more than 94 member organisations from WECF, which show especially the long-term negative health effects on local populations living near nuclear production plants or near uranium mines, and the struggle of the victims to obtain any support when they have lost family members or have become too ill to work.

WECF and partners like the Munich Environmental Institute, Germany, followed the negotiations closely and immediately raised their concerns in the NGO conference newspaper ECO with the article

“Keep nuclear energy out” when Japan complained on day 3 of the conference, that nuclear energy was not included in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

The position paper **“Women from all regions of the world strongly oppose including nuclear energy into the clean development mechanism”** published by WECF together with GenderCC (women for climate justice) pointed out the total failure of nuclear-energy proponents to face climate change and the fact that the nuclear industry is a threat to our health, our environment and human rights.

The paper also highlighted the even worse negative effects of nuclear energy on women as radiation sensitivity depends on age and sex. The sensitivity to radiation of women is about double as high as for men with regard to the relative risk. Especially high is the radiation sensitivity of the unborn child. Women are also more affected by the burden of the negative health impacts as they usually are the caretakers of the family who look after their sick and handicapped family members.

At the WECF exhibition booth, together with our partners, we provided throughout the conference expert information on the nuclear issue, sharing their knowledge and experience.

Furthermore, we organized a side event, **“Regional experience and information on nuclear energy – scientists, witnesses, and activists speak out”**.

The jointly organized press action **“Don't nuke the climate”** with anti-nuclear activists from all over the world in front of the conference center at the final countdown of the conference reached the delegates and the general public worldwide via a front page photo of the demonstration on the UNFCCC website as well as through coverage on BBC, television and radio stations and different newspapers.

WECF also advocated, together with GenderCC, for integrating gender into the whole process and into climate-change planning.

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Gender Theme

Editorial: More Women Needed for Decisions, Break the “Glass Ceiling” ..

Seeking Global influence in the UN Process:

- “Don't nuke the climate“ Women Actions in Bali
- Women's Role in the UN Climate Process: from Berlin to Bali and Beyond
- No Climate Justice without Gender Justice, February, 2008, Monaco
- Gender Side Event at UNFCCC, Bonn, June, 2008

Local and Regional Efforts:

- Kyrgyzstan: Women's Grass-Root Participation Brings Changes
- Bangladesh: 1000 Women Trained to Solar and Cookstoves
- Asia: CRT-Nepal Became Asia Coordinator for ENERGIA
- India: Follow-up of INFORSE Activities: Manuals, Jatropa, Open Uni, Soft Loans, Financing
- India: Micro-hydro Units in the Himalayas
- Who is Who?

Read previous Gender Theme articles in Sustainable Energy News:

www.inforse.org/europe/sen_gender.htm

Women's Role in the UN Climate Process: from Berlin to Bali and Beyond



Ulrike Roehr,
GenderCC –
Women for
Climate
Justice,
Life/Genanet

COP13 in Bali: From a gender perspective, it looks like a landmark.

For the first time in UNFCCC history, GenderCC, a worldwide coalition of women, has drafted position papers with the women's and gender perspectives on the most pressing issues negotiated. And for the first time, many activities from various women's organizations and institutions took place.

Side events of development organizations, women's and women ministers' networks, and governmental departments were the most visible signs of this new situation. All in all, six side events addressing primarily women's/gender issues took place, with others integrating it into a broader framework; the highest rate of women's representation ever. Issues addressed were forestation/deforestation, adaptation, financing, energy, future climate regime and so on. Thus, it was not only the number of events that set new records, but also the variety of issues addressed.

Close cooperation with observer groups, like trade unions, or the emerging movement "Climate Justice NOW" were proving excellent entry points for gender issues.

The new "Global Alliance Gender and Climate", initiated by International Organizations and WEDO, a Women's NGO, committed themselves to support gender mainstreaming in the negotiations. A press briefing by the network genderCC (women for climate justice) during the conference and media coverage in various countries gave additional attention to the issues beyond the closed conference area.

Daily women's meetings helped to draft positions and statements as well as to coordinate lobbying efforts among the women participating.

Achievements in Bali during COP13 were based on a long-term involvement and strategy developed in recent years.

Long Way from Berlin to Bali

Gender issues are rarely addressed in the UN climate-change negotiations, even though there

was an encouraging start at the First Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention in 1995 in Berlin. An international women's forum, "Solidarity in the Greenhouse", then attracted 200 women from 25 countries to discuss their views on climate protection. Unfortunately, there was a lack of follow-up.

The first (and so far only) official mentioning of women is contained in the text of a COP7 Marrakech resolution in 2001. It calls for more nominations of women to UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol bodies. It also tasks the UNFCCC-Secretariat with determining the gender composition of these bodies and with bringing their results to the attention of the Parties.

At the following COPs, several side events on gender and climate change as well as meetings of gender experts took place, aiming to bring gender aspects to the attention of participants and to discuss strategies towards increasing cooperation and improving lobbying efforts for a stronger integration of gender perspectives into the negotiations.

A milestone was achieved at COP11 in 2005 in Montreal. In preparation for the conference, a strategy paper was drafted by Genanet/LIFE/WECF (see p. 9) identifying possible entry points for gender aspects into the climate change debates.

According to the strategy, women engaged in three complementary activities:

- Raising awareness and disseminating information;
- Building women's capacity and joint strategizing on gender mainstreaming in climate policy;
- Developing a future research agenda, strengthening the gender and climate-change network (genderCC).



These activities helped to pick up the path from COP1 again, finally resulting in growing attention to and sensitization in gender dimensions of climate change in Bali. *There was strong support and affirmation by a growing number of delegates concerning gender issues,*

but *in the end, there is no reference to gender in the outcomes, the so-called 'Bali roadmap'.*

Furthermore, the majority of climate experts are not yet convinced that integrating gender into climate-change policy will make it more efficient and more effective and – last but not least – more just. Most of these experts are natural scientists or economists who give more credit to technical facts than to individual case studies or glaring inequalities. Viewing climate change and climate protection more as a scientific than a political process, they also tend not to link political goals like social and gender justice to climate-related policy-making. They will need further, preferably quantitative, evidence of gender sensitivity in climate change in order to draw their attention to gender issues.

Future Steps: Diversity in Gender Activities

Because of the rising coverage of climate change by the media, women's organisations and gender experts are also taking up these issues. They carry out campaigns in order to make women's voices heard and to build their capacity. On the other hand, UN organisations are starting to train their climate-change staff to integrate gender into their programmes. Development organisations were among the first to analyse their local adaptation projects from a gender perspective. Researchers are starting as well to include questions related to gender in their research programmes and proposals. Hopefully the results of such activities will be presented at the upcoming UNFCCC conferences.

Additionally, the debate on climate equity is receiving increasing attention and the climate justice movement is growing; both provide excellent entry points for gender debates. This will help to broaden the gender and climate justice movement and to spread the vision of gender-just climate-change strategies.

More: www.gendercc.net



No Climate Justice without Gender Justice

Women activities in February, 2008 in Monaco

By Chantal van Denbossche,
Sascha Gabizon, and
Sabine Bock, WECF
(from left to right)



The civil society facilitating committee at the
UNEP 10th special session elected
for a 2 year term

Women's participation and experience are central when it comes to human rights and climate change. That's why the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) organized a high-level 'Women as the Voice for the Environment' (WAVE) and Network of Women Environment Ministers side event during the UNEP Governing Council Meeting in Monaco in February 2008.

WECF Advocacy Work

The UNEP's Conference in Monaco was called 'Mobilizing Finance for Climate Action' but, we can put as much money in Climate Change as we want, it can still increase poverty and injustice. We see this happening in the area of CDM funding for Climate Change, which is not reaching the poorest. EU funds, needed for climate change mitigation and adaptation, going to nuclear research, which supports an industry, that creates great injustice when we look at the lack of human rights for people living near uranium mines. And in all countries, as UN statistics show us, women are the majority of the poor, and often doubly affected by injustice and poverty, as they are mostly the caretakers of the ill and disabled. WECF is concerned about the effects of climate change and the burdens that climate-related changes and disasters put on women, men and children, including health, environmental, and economic impacts in our region and globally. Thus, there cannot be climate justice without gender justice. We therefore demand a strong political commitment from every Government in the world to work for a far-reaching post-Kyoto regime. This regime can only be successful if the perspectives of women are fully taken into account.

Ministers' Dialog with NGOs

The joint UNEP and WECF WAVE-High Ministerial Side Event 'Financing climate change from a gender and rights perspective', on February 21, 2008 was a follow-up to the activities of the Network of Women Environmental Ministers and GenderCC – women for climate justice at the UNFCCC in Bali last December and to the WAVE events that took place in Belgrade last October during the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.

Eleven Ministers of Environment and Development Cooperation took part in the side event and high-level representatives of 6 governments, the African Union, and two UN agencies also joined in the discussions. In addition, various civil-society representatives attended the meetings and participated in the session. The Ministers had dialogues with civil-society representatives on the gender aspects of key policy issues including bio-fuels, nuclear, mitigation and adaptation programs and their impact on women and the poor.

The outcome of the event is very positive: Firstly, the agreement to work together to ensure the inclusion of gender criteria in the post-Kyoto regime, to mainstream gender criteria in funding programmes, and/or to guarantee that 20% of funding be allocated specifically for mitigation and adaptation projects for women and by women. Secondly, ministers made the recommendation to the executive director of UNEP to set aside a full day during the next UNEP GC/GMEF for the Network of Women Environment Ministers to deliberate on various gender issues arising in environmental management.

Green Jobs - Towards Sustainable Work in a Low-Carbon World

Aside from the WECF event, UNEP presented during the Governing Council Meeting the first finding of their Green Jobs Report, together with the International Labour Organisation and the International Trade Union.

WECF welcomed the new UNEP report, and stressed specifically its gender sensitivity. We were glad to see that the UNEP / Trade Union report stated clearly that jobs in the nuclear industry were not considered green at all. Nuclear energy is again too often being promoted as a solution for climate change. But so far the global environmental community managed to keep nuclear out of the Kyoto protocol. Promoting nuclear energy is irresponsible, as none of the countries currently using nuclear technology have been able to find a solution to protecting populations from radiation. All the money going into new nuclear energy would be much better spent in energy conservation and renewable energies. The potential for them is enormous. WECF works on the local level to give people access to safe energy. So we look for decentralized sustainable energy for ALL sectors of society, also for poor communities in rural areas, which will be a benefit for the local economies. Decentralized sustainable energy can be for them the way out of poverty. Therefore, we call for the participation of the public, especially women, in decision-making on energy sources and management and we call on governments and the private sector to shift investments from nuclear industry to renewable energies, which allow more and safer jobs to be created.

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Gender Side Events during the Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC Bonn, June 1- 13, 2008

June 9, 2008 1-3 pm. - IFE and Gendercc: More Effective Policies & Measures – Engendering Better Results Through Integrating Gender Aspects.

June 11, 2008 1-3 pm. - WECF, Gendercc, and partners: Nuclear Power: Roadblock to Effective Climate Change.

Kyrgyzstan: Women's Grass-Root Participation Brings Changes



By Nurzat Abdyrasulova,
Unison, INFORSE
member, Kyrgyzstan

Unison, a small Kyrgyz environmental NGO (INFORSE member), with support from WECF (See on p. 9) will help empower local rural women to develop their village, Kommuna, in south-western Kyrgyzstan from April through December of this year. The project is aimed at improving part of the town's infrastructure by installing better sanitation and energy-saving technologies and by training local community members in the use and care of the new equipment.

The area surrounding the village faces the typical problems that plague developing countries. Poverty is rampant, unemployment is high, most of the labor pool has migrated, the area is prone to ethnic conflict and the infrastructure is crumbling. Yet, this isn't just one town in a country suffering; this is a recurring story in most rural areas of predominately rural Kyrgyzstan.

Grass Root Participation

The question is, what makes Kommuna village different? Why does it stand alone, when so many other similar places face identical problems? The answer is grass-roots participation. It is not usually expected that villages will solve their own problems. Unlike many townspeople, the villagers in Kommuna, who are predominately women because the men have left to find jobs elsewhere, recognize their problems. Part of the solution has been recognizing that Kommuna needs outside help and committing to receiving from outsiders the training needed to help local residents improve their village. Major support from the government and from the town's women has been a driving force in the selection of Kommuna by Unison as the implementation site for this project.

Development requires an environment that encourages innovation. For the school system, this means that one must create a context in which pupils can develop themselves through learning and, in turn, develop their community. There will always be a debate on the best way to improve education. There is no question that qualified teachers are needed or that teachers can stimulate students, but student self-motivation is also needed.



Pictures of local community beneficiaries and of the old school that is to be rehabilitated.

Both teachers' and pupils' motivation is sorely tried in class during the winter months when the heating system is so strained that it is often overloaded and doesn't work. The school's sanitation system, which consists of outdoor pit toilets, is in terrible shape. The build-up of human waste contaminates ground water and is a perfect facilitator for the spread of water-borne illnesses to teachers, school children and the entire village. The situation doesn't improve when the pupils and teachers leave at the end of the school day. Lack of heat and power, coupled with poor sanitation, are also found in homes.

Energy Improvements

The project will install equipment to improve the energy and sanitation situation in the village. We will improve the learning environment through energy-saving measures such as thermal insulation of floor and ceiling and insulation of heat pipes. We will also install new doors and windows that are more energy-efficient. These measures will reduce the effect of the outdoor temperature on the indoor temperature. The school will retain heat and ease the strain on the overburdened energy system.

Sanitation Solution

The sanitation problem will be dealt with by installing a urine-diverting toilet. A urine-diverting toilet diverts the urine, which helps prevent human waste from contaminating the ground water and reduces the likelihood that flies will carry diseases from the waste back to humans. The urine is also used to help fertilize certain crops. The urine-diverting toilet reduces illness and disease while providing the community with a renewable natural fertilizer for food production.



Intensive Training

Installing new equipment is only one facet of improving an area. Training must also be incorporated into any project to explain the benefits of the new technology as well as to enable the local community to care for the equipment. Unison has selected local community members to take part in an intensive training course throughout the year. The training will emphasize the importance of energy-saving measures, teaching participants how to take care of energy-saving devices and how the village can reduce its consumption of energy. In turn, the trainers will train more individuals, so that the entire village will learn to understand energy issues via small seminars. A local team of community members will learn firsthand by witnessing the construction of the urine-diverting toilet. The community members will also be taught about hygiene and sanitation issues and how to prevent diseases caused by poor sanitation.

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Energy Globe Award to Unison

26 May, 2008

Unison won the Energy Globe Award with its project "Promotion of Energy Service Companies in Kyrgyzstan" in a competition among 853 projects from 109 nations. Award ceremony will be at the European Parliament on 26 May 2008.

Bangladesh: 1,000 Women Trained to Solar and Cookstoves

By Absar Kamal, Grameen Shakti (INFORSE member), Bangladesh

Mossamat Sahenoor is a young woman from a rural village in Bangladesh. Like many other young women in thousands of rural villages in Bangladesh, she was born into poverty with few opportunities to earn an income and to become a contributing member of her society.

Grameen Shakti Brings Changes

Grameen Shakti (GS) has changed all that. It has set up twenty Grameen Technology Centers (GTCs) in the rural areas to train local women as Solar and Improved Cook Technicians. These GTCs are making huge contribution to gender balance by transforming rural women, who are the main victims of energy crisis, into agents of social change to bring light, energy and income to their communities.

Massomat Sahenoor was one of the young women who participated in the Women Technician Training Program arranged by Grameen Technology Center, Potuakhali. She learned how to install, repair and maintain solar home systems and improved cook stoves. She was taught all these by women, engineers who run the local GTCs.

Now Sahenoor is a confident and efficient Solar Technician who is helping her neighbors to solve their solar-home-system related problems. She is also promoting improved cook stoves. She has constructed an improved stove in her home



Women technicians trained by Grameen Shakti in Bangladesh

and she has also constructed these stoves in several neighbouring houses. She says "Now I can solve my own problems and help others to solve theirs"

Renewable Entrepreneurs

More than 1,000 rural women have been trained just like Sahenoor – many of them are fabricating accessories at the local GTCs and others are marketing, installing, and repairing solar home systems and improved cook stoves. Many of them will soon set up their own business to promote renewable energy technologies in their communities. These women are the forerunners of the entrepreneur and community forces that Grameen Shakti is creating to propel its program ahead.

Training, Credits and more

Grameen Technology Centers also train women from consumer families in simple trouble-shooting of solar power systems. In addition, GTCs conduct Renewable Energy Awareness Program sessions for rural school children, over 5000 of whom

have participated. These programs are empowering the rural women to take care of their systems and at the same time building awareness in rural families, including the next generation.

Grameen Shakti has developed sustainable models for taking renewable energy technologies to the rural people, blending innovative applications of micro-credit with grass-roots community participation along with free efficient, effective after-sales service and consumer-friendly options such as buyback.

1,000,000 Solar Homes

Grameen Shakti has installed more than 130,000 solar home systems, with around 5,000 systems installed per month.

Grameen Shakti plans to install one million systems by 2015. Women technicians-cum-entrepreneurs mentored by Grameen Technology Centers will play a crucial role in this effort.

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CRT-Nepal Became Asia Coordinator for ENERGIA



By Rekha Maskey, CRT Nepal.

Recently, the Centre for Rural Technology Nepal (CRT/N), an INFORSE member, has been selected by ENERGIA as Regional Secretariat for the Asia Region for the period 2007-10.

The ENERGIA National Focal Points are in 9 countries of the region, namely, India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Lao PDR and Nepal.

Gender and Energy Training

The first successful events of the start was an international training course on "Mainstreaming Gender Concerns in Energy Projects" in Chiang Mai, Thailand on October 22-26, 2007. The training course

was organized by ENERGIA in collaboration with UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok and the logistical support was

provided by CRT. The goal was to increase the capabilities of development agents to mainstream gender concerns into energy access projects and policies. The training course brought together energy-project practitioners and trainers, who came away with new knowledge to apply to their respective project work situations and who will form a core of resource persons at the national level within Asian countries. The training program was conducted by Joy Clancy from the University of Twente and



Christina Aristanti from the Asia Regional Cookstoves Program. The 32 participants who were trained included both practitioners and trainers. Of the total, there were 22 female and 10 male participants. They came from the Asian region, i.e., from India, Lao, Vietnam, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, Nepal, Bhutan and China.

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Micro-hydro Units in the Himalayas

By Pranai Thapa, Programme Coordinator, LEDeG, India

Ladakh Ecological Development Group (LEDeG) has been working for more than 30 years for the people living in isolated, remote areas in the harsh climatic conditions of Ladakh's cold deserts.

The 57 micro-hydro units installed have significantly improved standards of living by reducing drudgery, mainly for women, but also for children. They can work/study much longer at nights without using kerosene lights, which are harmful to health in closed rooms. LEDeG also promotes decentralized water supply; it has installed 63 hydraulic ram pumps, which have increased substantially the income of the marginalized farmers in the past three decades.

The involvement of people from each community has been proven as the most crucial factor in the successful integration of technologies and initiatives at the grass-roots level. LEDeG believes that systems should be operated and maintained by the

users themselves. This not only gives the villagers a sense of ownership but also makes systems (more) self-sustaining. Each village has its own committee, which makes decisions on power distribution and tariff fixation as well as penalties for defaulters in the villages. These committees are backed by a village council for purposes of advice and major conflict resolution in the villages.

Project 2005-09 for 1,500 Families

In an on going project to increase income generation activities, LEDeG works with partners to benefit 1,500 families. The project aims to equip 20 villages with micro-hydropower with a capacity of 5 to 10 kW, paid 70% from the project and 30% by local communities. The project also aims to equip the villages with electric machines for both income generation as well as basic services.

LEDeG has already installed 9 micro-



Churning butter: traditional way (left) and electrical way powered by hydro-power unit.

hydro units in remote villages. In 2007, 14 machines were installed which are powered by the micro-hydro units, including flour mills, butter churners, one oil-expeller, and one nut cracker in 5 villages with 25% subsidy from the project. This has remarkably reduced drudgery of women as these machines saves lots of time and hard labour in butter churning, and grinding of barley or wheat; tasks where mostly women are involved.

Some women self help groups have also bought electrical wool spinning and carding machines that give them opportunities to earn some extra income. The project provides 30% subsidy for these.

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India: Follow-up of INFORSE Activities Manuals, Jatropa, Open Uni, Soft Loans, Financing



By Lalita Balakrishnan, All India Women's Conference, INFORSE Focal point for Gender, India

Follow-up to INFORSE-AIWC Programmes

The three-year project entitled "INFORSE Capacity Building for Sustainable Energy Solutions (SES) for Poverty Reduction", conducted with INFORSE-South Asia & the Danish NGOs OVE and DIB, came to a successful close in January 2008. The project partners in India are AIWC, INSEDA and SDA. As follow-up to the project's, the project partners have formulated various projects and are exploring funding possibilities. The proposed efforts make use of the Sustainable Energy Technology Manual and the Financial Manuals made by the participants of the project.

Among the projects are:

- INSEDA & WAFD are implementing the promotion of Jatropa cultivation utilizing Panchayat (local village-level authority) waste/ unused portion of lands and boundaries of fields co-operatively as well as on an individual basis. This project involves village youth and women.
- Collaboration with IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University), which

INFORSE's Sustainable Energy Manual to Poverty Reduction in English, Hindi, Nepalese, Bangladeshi, and Singhalese.



caters to 5 million students and has 1,700 centres all over the world, and that is recognizing the need for sharing and utilizing expertise with NGOs. IGNOU is about to launch a five-year program of capacity-building as well as a new certificate course in sustainable development. Emphasising the role of women in sustainable development, IGNOU has identified members to form a core group from national organizations like AIWC, INSEDA SDA, and INFORSE. AIWC's computer education center became approved to run this new course.

- One of the national banks, Canara Bank, has offered soft loans and certain seed funding for organizations recommended by AIWC for the promotion of renewable-energy technologies.

Financing for Household Energy

The Cop/Mop climate conference held in Bali in December 2007 stressed, among other things, the importance of dealing with the impacts of biomass production for household energy, which could be a key issue for the future. It reminds us that although the poorest have contributed least to CHG emissions, they are the most vulnerable to climate impacts.

Taking this into consideration, AIWC together with INFORSE South Asia's organisations are taking steps to scale up improved cooking with the support of carbon financing, which could lead to a win-win opportunity. We have had a number of meetings with the concerned experts, including those from GTZ CDM Department. SDA's biogas plants, which are already built and in operation, have been bundled and necessary applications are being sent. In the same way, AIWC is in the process of applying for carbon credits for the energy-saving-efficiency measures in its central office at its Delhi premises as well as for bundled savings effected by various AIWC branches throughout the country.

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Who is Who ?



LIFE
– Women
Develop
Eco-Technics

Organisation created in 1988 by women working at the Technical University of Berlin.

In the beginning, the most prominent aim was to increase the share of women in eco-technics and in particular in renewable energy. In 1994 the eco-technical training center for women was built up in Berlin. Today, the activities and aims have broadened; there are more than 40 persons working in several projects.

Financial support for the projects is given by, e.g., the Senate of Berlin, German Federal Ministries, foundations, EC and UN Programs. LIFE is member of INFORSE.

Contact: roehr@life-online.de,
info@life-online.de,
www.life-online.de.



ENERGIA, International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy
Network founded in 1995.

It links individuals and groups concerned with energy, sustainable development, and gender. ENERGIA is aiming to empower women and to introduce gender-sensitive approaches into the area of energy for sustainable development especially in Africa and Asia. The Secretariat is in the Netherlands. There are national and subregional focal points in Africa and Asia.

ENERGIA has received support from DGIS (Dutch Directorate General of International Cooperation) and Sida (Swedish International Development Agency). It also conducts activities together with UNDP.

ENERGIA is member of INFORSE.

Contact: www.energia.org.



AIWC
All
India
Women's
Conference

Organisation founded in 1927 to function as an organization dedicated to the upliftment and betterment of women and children. AIWC today has over 156,000 members in more than 500 branches across India. It is recognized as a premier organization working for women's development and empowerment and has been involved in a large number of projects including projects on renewable energy for reduction of poverty. It has received support from a large number of national and international organisations as well as private donations.

AIWC is member of INFORSE and focal point for gender issues in India. AIWC is also Member of ENERGA

Contact: www.aiwc.org.



Genanet - Focal Point Gender, Environment, Sustainability

Branch of LIFE, with a special focus on mainstreaming gender into environmental policy. It started its work in 2003.

Genanet has been created to raise awareness of gender equity issues in environment and sustainability policy as well as to integrate it into research and to implement gender mainstreaming in environmental policymaking and in the activities of environmental organisations. Genanet carries out campaigns and conferences. Genanet is cooperating closely with women's networks in Germany and elsewhere in Europe.

Contact: leitstelle@genanet.de,
www.genanet.de.



WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future,

Network of over 90 organizations in Western and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia working on sustainable development, health and environment, and poverty reduction. WECF strives for a healthy environment for all.

WECF promotes safe and sustainable energy for all, i.e. ecological, fair and locally produced energy. WECF was established at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. It receives support from the Dutch and German Ministries of Environment and from other foundations.

Contact: www.wecf.org.



UNISON

Organisation established in 2002 in Kyrgyzstan. Its aim is achieving an environment-friendly

Kyrgyzstan. UNISON has carried out projects on education for sustainable development, promotion and use of renewable energy including PV for health facilities, and other issues. It has received support from European Commission (EC), Slovakia, UK, and private foundations. UNISON is member of INFORSE as well as member of WECF.

Contact: www.unison.kg



INFORSE - International Network for Sustainable Energy

Network of 150 NGOs formed in 1992.

INFORSE is working for sustainable energy solutions to reduce poverty and protect the environment. The members include some of the most active NGOs on gender and energy. INFORSE receives support from a number of sources, including support to INFORSE-Europe - its European region - from the EC.

INFORSE follows gender and energy issues regularly, in *Sustainable Energy News* and on www.inforse.org/europe/sen_gender.htm.



GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice

Network created by women (and some men) from around the globe during UNFCCC COP9 in Milan in 2003 in order to bring gender into the climate change regime. Since then, the network has organised activities during the COPs as it grew and became slowly but steadily more recognized. Today, there are more than 100 gender & climate-change experts from all world regions involved in the network.

The GenderCC network has received funding supporting women's participation in the UNFCCC conferences and creating an internet platform from UNDP and from the German Environmental Ministry.

Contact: info@gendercc.net, www.gendercc.net. To join the mailing list, please send an email to gender_cc-subscribe@yahoo.com.



Grameen Shakti

Organisation formed in Bangladesh in 1996. It is part of the "Grameen family" of organisations together with Grameen Bank. Its aim is to promote the use of renewable energy among rural households as a mean against poverty and to protect the environment. Its main success has been promotion of solar home systems with a combination of micro-credits and technical assistance; but it is also promoting biogas and other forms of renewable energy. The majority of its users are women. It has received support from USAID, the World Bank, Stichting Gilles (Belgium) and many others.

Grameen Shakti is member of INFORSE and focal point for Bangladesh.

Contact: www.gshakti.org.



CRT/N - Centre for Rural Technology

Organisation established in 1989 in Nepal. It is engaged in developing and promoting appropriate/rural technologies in meeting the basic needs of the rural communities and improving their life. It has received support from UNEP, the German GTZ, UNDP, and many others. CRT/N is member of INFORSE and focal point for Nepal. CRT is also focal point to ENERGIA.

Contact: www.crtnepal.org.



LEDeG - Ladakh Ecological Development Group

Organisation formed in 1983 in Ladakh in India. Its goal is to promote sustainable development of Ladakh. Among its many activities in the field of appropriate technology, the organisation has worked on a wide range of renewable energy technologies, adapting them to suit local conditions. LEDeG has received support from EC, government of India, and others.

LEDeG is member of INFORSE

Contact: www.ledeg.org.