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**CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION FORUM**

**ADAPTING AND LIVING UNDER 2°C:
BRIDGING GAPS IN POLICY & PRACTICE**

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ADAPTATION PLANNING

Eco Village Development (EVD): Supporting Sustainability in Sri Lanka

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Rural communities are more vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change. The catastrophic climate events in the past months in Sri Lanka displaced and affected a significant number of rural people in the island. Over 75% of the Sri Lankan population belong to the rural sector. The capacity and awareness of these communities on climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation is very poor to go along with their poor financial backgrounds. Hence they are at risk for the adversities caused by climate induced impacts which are probable in the future.

In the midst of all this, Sri Lanka is thriving to achieve sustainability in parallel with the 17 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). In terms of achieving rural sustainability, Eco Village Development (EVD) could be considered as a holistic and integrated approach which could strengthen and develop rural communities without compromising the environment. Integrated Development Association (IDEA) is currently demonstrating EVD solutions in three villages in the Matale district, Sri Lanka. Raising awareness, EVD planning and implementation of solutions, advocating local to national level stakeholders are the key activities in this regard. These activities are linked with the project "Evidence based Advocacy for Low-Carbon Pro-Poor Sustainable Eco Village Development (EVD) in South Asia: 2015-2017". The aim of this project is to advocate and influence policy makers and decision makers to include EVD as a sustainable solution for rural development in National policies with emphasis on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Following COP21 Paris Climate change agreements, there is an urge from all nations to work on Climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation. Sri Lanka too has shown its commitment through its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) emphasizing the actions in sectors such as Energy, Industries, Food security, Health and water with Greener and alternative solutions. In that sense, Eco Village Development (EVD) concept is an integrated approach where village communities could be climate resilient, low carbon and socio economically strengthened at the same time.