



PHOTO: CRT - NEPAL

# Eco-Village Development in South Asia

## Solution to Climate & Development

The challenges of poverty, climate change, and the resultant migration of young people from rural agricultural areas to urban slum are addressed by a set of locally-based solutions within the Eco-Village Development concept. The concept is promoted within a new project in South Asia with participation of INFORSE organizations and CANSA in 2015-17.

## Combining Solutions

The Eco-Village Development (EVD) concept combines a number of solutions for poverty reduction within sustainable energy, water management, agriculture, gardening, and housing.

*The solutions have all proven successful individually. Together* they can provide the energy and resources needed for a development out of poverty for rural villages with minimal greenhouse emissions, a truly feasible vision of a prosperous future for rural villages. *Individually*, the solutions can provide, for instance, cleaner cooking, light, or better gardening. *Together* they can fulfil basic needs, providing energy and resources for increased income generation. With the focus on local solutions, EVD does not create dependency on central supplies of, e.g., electricity and fossil fuels, where the supply is too often erratic and costly.

## Not Just Collection of Technologies

EVD is more than a collection of sustainable technological solutions. It also includes:

- *Planning* of the right solutions for each area and each village, to be chosen according to climate, livelihood, etc. with assessment of resources and needs in dialogue with the community.
- *Integration of solutions and stepwise development*, where the villagers gradually attain the solutions, as they are able to afford them and to organize themselves to use them effectively.
- *Training and support for permanent use and maintenance*.
- *Frameworks* such as *funding mechanisms*, in order to have a *long-term progression* of living standards in a sustainable way.

## Bridge

The EVD concept and solutions can serve as a bridge between the development objectives and the climate objectives.

The resulting message, that development with poverty reduction does not need to conflict climate mitigation, is key for constructive climate policies, and for possible successes with international climate agreements.

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Project Partners are 7 INFORSE member organizations and CAN-South Asia.

NEPAL:  
CRT/N - Centre for Rural Technology  
[www.crtnepal.org](http://www.crtnepal.org)



SRI LANKA:  
IDEA - Integrated Development Association  
[www.ideasrilanka.org](http://www.ideasrilanka.org)



BANGLADESH:  
Grameen Shakti  
[www.gshakti.org](http://www.gshakti.org)



INDIA:  
INSEDA: Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association  
[www.inseda.org](http://www.inseda.org)



WAFD - Women's Action For Development  
[climateandgender.org](http://climateandgender.org)



AIWC - All India Women's Conference  
[www.aiwc.org.in](http://www.aiwc.org.in)



DENMARK:  
DIB (coordinator) [www.dib.dk](http://www.dib.dk)

Regional Networks:  
INFORSE-South Asia [www.inforse.org/asia](http://www.inforse.org/asia)  
CANSA [www.cansouthasia.net](http://www.cansouthasia.net)





▲ Some of the solutions, which are part of the eco-village development concept. Read more in the Publication of the Project. (See page No. 11)

► *Article continued from the previous page*

## 4 Countries

The Project is active in 4 South Asian countries: India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Activities are coordinated by a national INFORSE member NGO organisation. Regional coordination is done by INFORSE South Asia and CANSA. (See box on page No. 7)

## 3 Villages per Country

During the Project, 3 villages are chosen in each country to gain methodological experience on the EVD planning process with community involvement. The process includes:

- Assessing resources and formulating needs in longer perspectives, e.g., of 5, 10, or 15 years.
- Mapping of resources is based on questionnaires and on available statistics.
- Compiling and providing information about various possible EVD solutions.
- Formulating the needs by exploring “how a dream eco-village” would look in the future.

The plans are intended to be used in presentations to convince the village or district development committee. In addition, they strengthen the basis for further promotion, campaigns, and advocacy work on national and international levels.

## Simple Technological Solutions

The EVD solutions are generally simple, easy to implement, low-cost and low in emissions. They include locally perfected solutions of, for instance, improved cook stoves as well as appropriate high-tech solutions such LED lamps that make good light much more affordable, including for poor people. Thus, the EVD concept gives better prospects for sustainable development with poverty reduction today than was possible earlier, simply because of the local and global technical development. Some examples of solutions for EVD, where the partners have experiences, are:

- Family-size biogas plants for cooking, light, and slurry for fertilizer
- Solar dryers made of affordable materials to dry food for own consumption and for income
- Solar (PV) systems to provide electricity to LED lights, TV/radio, fan, and mobile phone charging
- Micro-hydro and improved water mill for community electrification and small business development
- Simple pumps and pumping for improvements in sanitation and micro-irrigation
- Roof rain-water harvesting
- Climate-adapted low-cost housing, reducing heating and cooling needs
- Clean cooking solutions, including improved cookstoves and briquetting to make charcoal from locally available biomass for smokeless and pollution-free cooking
- Low-cost toilets, especially for the convenience of village women
- Agro-forestry, including growing seeds and nurseries
- Organic farming
- Low-cost, affordable greenhouses
- Integrating micro-finance services for the solutions.

▼ The Project Partners at the kick off meeting in India in April, 2015.





**Break the Myth of “More Development Releases More CO<sub>2</sub>”**

South Asia consists of developing and least-developed countries. Thus, in their planning discussions, poverty alleviation takes high priority, targeting rural areas, including many villages, where poverty is severe.

Up until now, poverty-reduction strategies have often relied on development that has produced high emissions, such as rural electrification with electricity from coal-fired power plants. Such solutions increase fossil-fuel use, and are often unreliable in rural areas because of frequent and lengthy power cuts, erratic fossil-fuel supply outside of cities, and price variations that make them unaffordable for the poor.

Currently, most village-level development programmes for poverty reduction pay very little attention to climate change. This is in spite of the fact that the poorest groups of society are the most vulnerable to damages from climate change.

**Therefore, we propose to integrate the EVD concept into existing village-development programmes in these countries. Local EVD solutions bring sustainable development that will reduce poverty more effectively than business-as-usual approaches.**

**At the same time, local EVD can improve the resilience of these areas in the face of a changing climate.**

South Asian countries might receive more support and greater international recognition by increasing the priority of EVD solutions in their climate policies.

***In South Asia, of the 1.7 billion people, about 900 million live on less than 3.1 USD per day and 300 million on less than 1.9 USD, with 70-90% of the poor living in rural areas.***

**Seek Influence: Call from Villages to National Level & to the UN Climate Negotiations**

We, within this project, seek to convey this message to national development agencies, to international donors, and to government agencies responsible for national climate policies and for negotiations on international agreements. So far we worked on:

- local evidence of success
- national dialogue meetings
- policy briefs on national and international levels
- publications promoting EVD as climate solutions
- presentation at the UNFCCC process
- inputs to national hearings on relevant issues e.g., on Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to UNFCCC
- participation and input to other relevant forums in South Asia.



▲ The eco-village development concept was presented at the INFORSE's side event at the UNFCCC SB42 Conference in Bonn, Germany on June 10, 2015.  
 - On the photo above: Kalyani Raj (AIWC) presents experiences on gender aspects.  
 - On the photo below: Gunnar Boye Olesen (INFORSE) presents the Eco-Village Development Policy Brief.

► Front page of the Publication of the EVD project to be launched at the INFORSE side event of UNFCCC COP21 on December 3, 2015.



*Read more on the Project Eco Village Development (EVD) in South Asia for 2015-17 at [www.inforse.org/asia/EVD.htm](http://www.inforse.org/asia/EVD.htm) as well as on the Project Partners' websites. The Project's full title: "Evidence based advocacy for low-carbon, pro-poor sustainable "Eco-Village Development" in South Asia.*

*The EVD Project is supported by DANIDA's Danish Civil Society Fund administered by Civil Society in Development (CISU), which is a Danish association of 280+ Danish NGOs.*

