

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS



***THEME:
ECO-VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT
IN SOUTH ASIA***

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INFORSE at UNFCCC COP22

Expanding Climate Action from the Bottom

In INFORSE, we have worked for 25 years to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. Now, use of renewable energy is growing fast, a transition spreading quickly across the globe. Some political leaders are trying to stop it, including in Hungary and the USA. Environmental and economic facts favour renewables, however, leaving opponents little chance of stopping this development. Sustainable energy is prospering, but we also need solutions that integrate sustainable development with reduction of poverty. One such solution in which INFORSE participates in promoting the Eco-Village Development (EVD) concept, which is now progressing in South Asia.

Since the beginning of 2015, INFORSE members in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka have promoted EVD. They have worked on many levels, from development of examples in villages, where the inhabitants are the real beneficiaries, to counties and states, where development policies increasingly are decided, and to nationwide efforts. National dialogues have shown high level political interest in the countries involved. And internationally, INFORSE actively promotes local solutions in the climate negotiations with proposals for implementation of the Paris Agreement in ways that include local solutions and that reduce poverty.

With EVD and similar initiatives, what is happening on the grassroots level is being recognised on higher levels. The leaders are learning that a bottom-up approach works and that local sustainable solutions are

improving the lives of the poor. The practical application of EVD really can be a forceful strategy to address climate concerns while improving local energy access and creating livelihoods. Thus, it also contributes to realisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

EVD initiatives have created evidence and support for local solutions; now, we need to scale up the practical implementation. Most people in South Asia still cook with wood or cow dung in traditional, inefficient, polluting stoves. Many have no access to electricity. Centralised solutions such as reliable electricity grids and bottled gas (LPG) are not reaching the poor. If a village gets electricity, it often only has power a few hours per day. Use of LPG is hampered by the continued cost of new gas bottles, which the poor can hardly afford.

We will continue to work for local solutions such as the EVD in South Asia. We will find further evidence, train local hands-on promoters, advocate for EVD, and keep striving for local solutions in national and international strategies and policies. We will also keep following our vision of 100% renewable energy, a vision that is now shared by many countries around the world, including Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in South Asia. These three nations have joined the "Climate-Vulnerable Forum" of countries that are especially susceptible to major damages as climate change progresses.

We will think globally while acting locally, regionally, and globally.

By Gunnar Boye Olesen, INFORSE, Ganesh Ram Shrestha, CRT/N, INFORSE Focal Point for Nepal, Dumindu Herath, IDEA, INFORSE Focal Point for Sri Lanka, and Mohammad Mahmudul Hasan, Grameen Shakti, INFORSE Focal Point for Bangladesh



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Photo on the front page:
Fish pond and greenhouse in
Nepal. See articles on pages 4-9.

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▲ Model of local solutions at INFORSE's exhibition stall at UNFCCC COP 21 Paris. PHOTO: INFORSE.

Paris Rulebook and Local Solutions

Crucial decisions are to be made this year regarding implementation of the Paris Agreement. Details of guidelines and decisions shall be agreed to make the Paris Agreement operational. The resultant system of rules has been dubbed "the Paris Rulebook".

INFORSE is following the UN Climate Convention (UNFCCC) negotiations to advocate for recognition of local solutions in the coming rules as well as to determine their likely impacts policies and support for local climate solutions. The Paris Rulebook addresses a long list of issues, including development and updates of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), transparency in climate action and support, operationalisation of the adaptation target of the Paris Agreement, and development of a new framework for the technology mechanism of the Climate Convention. INFORSE's main priorities are:

- That the guidelines for NDCs shall recognize the value of local solutions that can reduce both emissions and poverty;
- That the transparency framework shall support accounting for emission reductions from local solutions;
- That the technology mechanism, including the national technology action plans developed under the mechanism, shall give decisive priority to local solutions that reduce both emissions and poverty; and
- That the so-called "facilitative dialogue" in the 2018 climate negotiations will be used to increase ambitions and cooperation on climate action, including update and improvement of NDCs.

All of this was discussed at the climate negotiations in May in Bonn, but the countries made only modest progress. Now, it is up to the countries to use COP23 this coming November to bring the Paris Rulebook forward, so that it can be finalised at COP24 in 2018 at the latest. Read more about INFORSE's climate positions at www.inforse.org.

New Help for Low-Emission Development Strategies

In 2015, when countries approved the Paris Agreement, they also invited each other to develop long-term (2050) low-greenhouse-gas-emission strategies (LEDS) until 2020, mindful of the aims of the Paris Agreement. This includes the aim of limiting global climate change to 1.5 or well below 2°C. A few countries have presented their LEDS already, and many more are planning to do so until 2020, including 48 of the most vulnerable countries in the Climate-Vulnerable Forum (thecvf.org). If most countries develop LEDS, they will provide an indication of long-term expectations of climate action, including how close global action can come to realising the aims of the Paris Agreement. It will also be a very good basis for discussion of the additional actions needed.

There is no official template or guideline for development of LEDS, which makes the task more difficult, especially for smaller developing countries. To compensate for this, a global 2050 Pathway Platform has been launched, which presents guidelines and assistance for development of comprehensive national LEDS. The hope is that the large majority of countries will use it to develop LEDS by 2020. From INFORSE we will follow the development of the Platform, see updates at www.inforse.org.



25 Years of INFORSE

On June 4, 1992, INFORSE was founded at the civil society forum held in parallel to the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

UNCED was the conference at which the climate convention and the biodiversity convention were agreed, together with other important guidelines for sustainable development.

We will celebrate the 25-year anniversary of INFORSE in a number of ways, including, at an INFORSE-Europe seminar, August 24; with a 25-year anniversary issue of Sustainable Energy News in October; and at the COP23 in November.

We look forward to welcoming you all to these celebrations, online as well as in person.



What is Eco-Village Development?

Eco-Village Development (EVD) strengthens local economies and rural development by providing villagers with tools to improve their livelihoods as well as their environments and the reliability of their food and energy supplies. This integrated approach yields solutions that are low-carbon, environment-friendly, and economically sustainable, thus reducing poverty.

EVD serves well as a key tool towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the National Determined Contributions of the Countries (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement, as well as National Adaptation and Rural Development Plans.

Supporting aids are under development including training materials along with calculations projecting how various solutions reduce the greenhouse emissions, in part to serve as input towards the NDCs.

Some solutions already receive carbon credit. While each solutions in isolation, such as an improved cook stove, a family biogas plant, a household solar cell, or a solar drier, has relatively small impact on CO₂ emissions, when millions of households use them, the total reductions are significant.

▲ Project Partner Meeting in Nepal in 28 June - 2 July, 2017. On the photo from left to right: Lykke Valentin Kristiansen (DIB), Subas Lamichhane (CRT/N, Nepal), Hari Gopal Gorkhali (CRT/N, Nepal), Limasangla Jamir (WAFD, India), Judit Szoleczky (INFORSE), Shovana Maharjan (CRT/N, Nepal), Namiz Musafer (IDEA, Sri Lanka), Ashrafuzzaman Khan (Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh), Ganesh Ram Shrestha (CRT/N, Nepal), Gunnar Boye Olesen (INFORSE), M. Mahmudul Hasan (Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh), Niranjan Lal (SOHARD, India), Santosh Kumar Patnaik (CANSAs), Dumindu Indika Herath (IDEA, Sri Lanka), and Jeanette Westh (DIB).

Forward with Eco-Village Development, South Asia

Eco-Village Development (EVD) activities in South Asia have reached new, higher levels in 2017 and they will continue with activities to boost the EVD even more in 2017-18.

INFORSE members in South Asia are working with Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs) to raise awareness of local solutions including the EVD Concept.

Policy planners & decision-makers are being urged to include local development approaches in their national, regional, and international actions.

Promotion of EVD in South Asia began in 2015 on a larger scale with a cooperative effort by NGOs in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

Activities have included participatory local planning, proof-of-concept demonstrations in selected villages, and dialogues with politicians and planners,

as well as participation in the UN Climate negotiations and in regional events.

One outcome of activities has been a 60-page **joint publication "Eco-Village Development as Climate Solution - Proposals from South Asia"**. It is now available in four national languages as well as in English.

In addition, the initiative has produced **posters, videos, case studies, local energy plans, and policy briefs** linking applied local solutions to national policies as well as to international climate negotiations.

With the coming **scaling-up activities**, the aim is to continue promoting the EVD concept based on the experiences gained and **develop an EVD manual while continuing to increase outreach and documentation.**

Please read on the Partners of the Project, publications, and activities in 2017 in Nepal, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh on the next pages.



▲ The 60-page Joint publication "Eco-Village Development as Climate Solution - Proposals from South Asia" are available in English as well as in Nepali, Bangla, Hindi, and Sinhalese.

Partners of the Eco-Village Development Project



NEPAL:
CRT/N - Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal
www.crtnepal.org



INDIA:
INSEDA - Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association
www.inseda.org



SRI LANKA:
IDEA - Integrated Development Association
www.ideasilanka.org



WAFD - Women's Action For Development
www.climateandgender.org



BANGLADESH:
Grameen Shakti
www.gshakti.org



REGIONAL NETWORKS:
CANSO - Climate Action Network South Asia
www.cansouthasia.net



COORDINATOR:
DIB, Denmark
www.dib.dk



INFORSE-SOUTH ASIA
International Network for Sustainable Energy
www.inforse.org/asia
INFORSE - International Network for Sustainable Energy
www.inforse.org

THE ECO-VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT (EVD) PROJECT IN SOUTH ASIA:

The Project titled "Evidence Based, Low Carbon, Pro-Poor Advocacy on Sustainable Eco-Village Development (EVD)" in 2015-17, continues with an aim to Scaling Up in 2017-18.

Publications, Policy Briefs, News are available at the Project's web site of INFORSE-South Asia: www.inforse.org/asia/EVD.htm and at www.ecovillagedevelopment.net (from September 2017)

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



NEW REPORT: Greenhouse-Emission Reduction Potential of Eco-Village Development Solutions in South Asia

This new report presents greenhouse gas emission reductions of selected EVD solutions.

One example in the report shows that if 100 families in a village employ certain solutions, such as improved cookstoves, household biogas, solar light, and solar drying, they can reduce overall emissions by 500 - 600 tons CO₂e annually.

Within the current Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) methodology, about half of these emission reductions are recognised internationally.

Read the report at www.inforse.org/asia/EVD.htm





▲ National workshop on EVD and eco-village development solutions: improved cookstove, hydraulic ramp pump, water mill driven grinder, green house and fish farming pond. Photos by CRT/N, Nepal.

Nepal

The replication and scaling up aspects of eco-village development (EVD) concept was discussed during several events organised by the Centre for Rural Technology (CRT/N) in Nepal.

National Workshop:

On April 7, 2017, some 50 participants learned about the experiences and lessons along with the success stories of EVD in the Kavrepalanchok District. The local beneficiaries shared their happiness about the project that helped them to improve their livelihood and that made them aware of the environmental consequences of different methods. They were trained in

- local planning facilitated with mapping resources and dialogue on needs and visions,
- sustainable agriculture (e.g., use of greenhouses, water-/waste management, composting, small-scale fish farming, hydraulic ram pumps), and
- sustainable energy (water mills, biogas, solar electricity, efficient cookstoves with chimneys).

The stakeholders and policy-makers shared their own experiences on the issues, and presented feedback. The many positive comments stated that EVD:

- Supports the Environment-Friendly Local Governance (EFLG) framework of the government,
- Is linked strongly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Serves both climate change mitigation and adaptation; Enhances rural livelihoods in a climate-friendly manner; Is an integrated approach, which goes hand-in-hand with both agriculture and energy development;
- Helps to reduce the migration of youth in search of opportunities elsewhere and helps to develop family harmony;
- Takes a bottom-up approach. The plans were selected

by the communities themselves, and were the results of several dialogue meetings within the communities and different local committees. The EVD team only played the role of facilitator, and capacity-building was a major focus.

To scale up the use of EVD, participants suggested replication in other villages, workshop(s) for media groups, development of a clear guide to help local governments, agro-entrepreneurship, organic certification, and many other strategies.

The participants were representing Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE), Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), Kavre District Coordination Committee, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEP), IUCN, Village Development Committees, the organizing NGOs (CRT-Nepal, CEN/CANSA), other NGOs such as NGO Federation Nepal, WWF, ECCA, FECOFUN, NYCA, Winrock International, media including Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ), and the National News Agency (RSS).

National Follow Up Event: Publication Launch

On July 7, 2017, some 20 people participated in a field visit and in the subsequent discussion on the EVD concept's possibilities for other villages. The event also marked the launch of the Nepalese version of the 60-page publication of the EVD Concept. Among the participants were a member of the National Planning Commission and the executive director of Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEP), along with the chief and deputy chief of Bethanchok Rural Municipality. Importantly, the national representatives were very positive and assured that they would provide the necessary support, and urged replication of EVD in the entire rural municipality.



By Shovana Maharjan, Project Coordinator (left) and Ganesh Ram Shrestha Executive Director (right) CRT/N, Nepal



▲ Posters showing the technologies of the eco-village development in Nepal. Published by CRT/N.



▲ National dialogues, Earth Day action promoting EVD as well as solutions like family biogas plant, greenhouse and a newly developed Heera hybrid cook stove, which was demonstrated and constructed in 15 homes in 5 villages during the Project in the Indian state Uttarakhand. Photos by WAFD and INSEDA.

India

Several dialogues meetings, workshops, campaigns boosted the Eco-Village Development (EVD) concept on different levels in India.

Indian Dialogue, "Eco-Village Development Model: Action for Transformative Change in Energy Access, Livelihoods, and Food Security in Rural India"

At this event on June 8, 2017 in New Delhi, more than 30 people representing ministries, government institutes, and 12 organizations met to follow up on the first national dialogue on Eco-Village Development (EVD) that took place in 2016. The participants had a candid, cross-sectoral dialogue on actionable strategies to support climate-resilient development efficiently and effectively in rural India, particularly in the sectors of energy access, food security, and livelihoods/entrepreneurship.

The participants discussed the EVD model, striving to identify new innovative strategies and viewpoints. Their key recommendations were:

- Build and leverage effective partnerships between the private sector and the NGO sector to work together towards development goals.
- Use communication tools with a large outreach that can help to inform the users in uncomplicated ways on innovations for rural development.
- Create a more enabling environment for policy-makers and NGO practitioners to engage with each other more effectively. This would promote a truly bottom-up approach to development issues.

The event was jointly organised by the EVD project partners INSEDA, WAFD, and CANSA in association with INFORSE South Asia members in India.

Event: "Women in EVD"

On July 26, 2017, in New Delhi, 49 participants attended a unique "Women's Roundtable" to focus on women's roles in developing and scaling up EVD. Among the participants were eight of the women farmers involved in the eco-village development in Uttarakhand as well as women in senior positions from Ministries, women rural entrepreneurs, and women specializing in eco-agriculture/farming. The objective was to focus on the importance of the roles that women play in rural development with particular focus on food, livelihood and energy security. These roles, unfortunately, mostly go unrecognized. One of the outcomes of the event is a series of recommendations for policymakers.

The event was organized by the EVD project partners WAFD and INSEDA in association with the Indian Council for Food and Agriculture (ICFA).

EVD - A Policy Priority for States

International agreements on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals provide impetus for climate action within (sub-national) state governments in India. State policies play a significant role in building climate-resilient societies and promote development with minimal carbon footprints. Thus, CANSA has got engaged to influence the states by advocating for sustainable rural development, providing research-based analytical input and capacity-building support.

Among these activities, CANSA has provided input to a carbon-neutral Menangadi panchayat (village/municipal level) pilot project in Kerala. In addition, it is working closely with the Madhya Pradesh state government in a 'Climate-Smart Village' initiative and is partnering with the Sikkim state departments in promoting organic agriculture.



By Kavita Shriya Myles, Chief Programme Director, INSEDA (top left), Santosh Kumar Patnaik, Project Manager, CANSA (top right), and Zareen Myles, Executive Director, WAFD (bottom)



▲ Detail of a poster explaining the eco-village development in India. Part of a poster series published by INSEDA and WAFD.



▲ IDEA meetings with district level administration, IDEA's stall at the Environmental Day Exhibition, construction of "Anagi" stove, field visits, compost with growing plants, improved kitchen, and village planning with mapping. Photos by IDEA.

Sri Lanka



By Dumindu Indika Herath
Project Coordinator
IDEA, Sri Lanka

Eco-village Development (EVD) solutions continue to succeed in Sri Lanka, taking demonstrated successes from village-level to districts and national level.

Village Level Demonstrations

EVD solutions have been demonstrated successfully at the village level with growing support as well as with active participation of both the community and local governments. Contributions from the community in implementing EVD solutions showed how the EVD could move forward sustainably.

IDEA and the local citizen-based organization (CBO) "Arunalu" organized field visits to EVD demonstration sites for the Divisional Secretary and relevant officials. Attendees observed demonstrations of improved cookstoves, mushroom units, home gardens, and improved kitchens. These visits have raised awareness of and confidence in EVD, both in the community and within local governments.

District-Level Aspects

Discussions of EVD and its way forward with the District Secretary, the planning director of Matale District, and the divisional secretary of Pallepola have emphasized the importance of community-based village development planning and of a bottom-up development approach.

Village plans drafted for three EVD villages were presented to these officials, together with the supporting EVD publications.

District officials have expressed a positive interest in propagating EVD at grassroots levels through productive utilization of development officials.

Environment Day Exhibition

EVD information is being disseminated widely at different levels in Sri Lanka. Eco-Village Development and its activities were featured at the "Soba 2017" World Environment Day exhibition that was held on the 9th and 10th of July in Colombo. There, hands-on demonstrations of construction of the improved cookstove "Anagi" and of solar drying drew much interest from all groups of participants.

National Dialogue

A "National dialogue on Sustainable Eco Village Development in Sri Lanka", organized by IDEA with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, will be held in Kandy on the 31st of July. The collaboration offers a platform for active discussion between concerned ministerial and other stakeholders about sustainable EVD prospects. Higher officials representing the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife and the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment will attend as resource persons to enhance the value of the event.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate-change discussions at the same event are expected to create a healthy basis for ongoing EVD dialogue. SDGs in the context of Sri Lanka, national commitments in terms of Climate Agreements, the "Smart Green Villages" program of the government, and the Sustainable Village Development planning process are to be discussed in the main technical session, prior to the dialogue sessions. Participants will include key stakeholders and decision-makers representing governmental as well as non-governmental sectors.



▲ Publications: Collection of EVD case studies and community based Village Development Plans published by IDEA supporting the EVD concept in Sri Lanka.



▲ EVD solutions exhibited at the Grameen Shakti stall during the National Environment Fair, national seminar and dialogue, village meetings and demonstration of street light and bamboo slurry pit at a biogas plant. Photos by Grameen Shakti.

Bangladesh

The concept of Eco-Village Development (EVD) was promoted in several events organized by Grameen Shakti. These activities are paving the way for EVD to become part of policies in Bangladesh.

Village Meetings with Demonstrations

In June, 2017, two village meetings were held. One featured a *bamboo slurry pit connected to a biogas plant*. The slurry pit has proved to be an affordable installation that supports optimal use of the biogas slurry as an organic fertilizer.

The other meeting showcased *solar-powered street-lights*. The streetlights have improved living condition in the villages. They enable women to walk safely in the village at night. This point was raised in the discussion, underscoring the importance of ensuring that the engagement of villagers receives high priority in future developmental activities.

Both programs ended with questions, feedback, and answers, in which the villagers shared their views regarding the changes in their livelihood. The first event was also attended by journalists from a national daily newspaper, and the second was joined by the local Union Council.

National Seminar: "EVD in Bangladesh: Exchanging Views, Ideas & Experience"

On June 21, 2017, some 20 participants exchanged experiences with the EVD's concept and solutions. This group included officials from the Department of Environment; researchers/academicians from universities; and representatives of various NGOs, including the managing director and other staff from Grameen

Shakti. Among the themes presented and discussed were:

- The unique features of the EVD concept: planning that is driven by demand from villagers, networking in the villages, and in the arena of policy-making;
- The EVD solutions that can be incorporated in the mapping of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangladesh under the purview of the Ministry of Planning. In this context, the group also discussed the challenges and barriers to meeting the targets on schedule,
- Prospects of different technologies such as biogas and slurry, aquaculture, and renewable micro-grids for off-grid fish hatcheries; and
- Building the INFORSE Network in Bangladesh.

National Environment Fair 2017 - EVD aligned to NDC and SDG targets of Bangladesh

On 4-8 June, 2017, Grameen Shakti participated with a stall in the National Environment Fair which was organized by the Ministry of Environment along with Forest of Government of Bangladesh to celebrate the World Environment Day.

The stall featured an "Eco-village Model" showing a solar-powered house, irrigation pump for paddy cultivation and a biogas plant, as well as a portable solar home system, a solar lantern, various solar appliances, and an improved cook stove. The event was an excellent opportunity to promote community-based approach of EVD to a wide range of stakeholders including government officials, practitioners, and academicians.



By M. Mahmudul Hasan
Project Manager
Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh



▲ The joint EVD publication "Eco-Village Development as Climate Solution - Proposals from South Asia" in Bangla.



European Sustainable-Energy Seminar General Meeting 25-year Anniversary Aug. 21-24/25, 2017

INFORSE-Europe is organising a sustainable-energy seminar at the Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy in Denmark.

We will discuss the ongoing transition to sustainable energy, along with EU developments and local energy initiatives.

There will be time
 - to plan future activities among INFORSE-Europe organisations,
 - to celebrate INFORSE's 25-year anniversary, and
 - to see sustainable energy solutions at the Nordic Folkecenter and around.

On August 25, we will hold the General Meeting of INFORSE-Europe.

The participation fee is 200 €, which includes food and accommodation.

Read more at www.inforse.org/europe/seminar_17_DK.htm.



▲ Photo from the INFORSE's 15-year anniversary celebrated by INFORSE-Europe members at the Samsø Energy Academy in Denmark.

New Scenarios for Sustainable Energy Transition

Increasing numbers of European countries and organisations are proposing transitions to renewable energy, including several members of INFORSE. In Eastern Europe, where few governments are working for a transition to renewable energy, five organisations have taken up the challenge. They are developing scenarios and proposals for expansion of renewable energy in their countries, exploring possible transitions to renewable energy.

In Armenia, ECOTEAM has analysed the opportunities for expansion of renewable energy and INFORSE-Europe has helped with development of a scenario showing how Armenia can move to renewable energy.

In Belarus, the Centre for Environmental Solutions (CES) has collected information from the many Belarusian towns that have joined the EU Covenant of Mayors. It is considering how their local plans can boost the expansion of renewable energy and of energy efficiency by 2030, also on national scale. In parallel, the Heinrich Böll Foundation is developing a longer-term scenario for transition of Belarus to renewable energy.

In Macedonia, Eko-Svest is developing a scenario and political proposals for transition to renewable energy, based on the South East Europe 2050 Energy Model that was developed by the SEE Change Net.

In Serbia, CEKOR is developing a plan for transition of the town of Subotica to renewable energy, in cooperation with the local municipality.

In Ukraine, the NGO Renewable Energy Agency (REA) is developing a scenario for transition of the country to renewable energy and an analytic comparison of the Ukrainian energy strategies with EU energy policies. REA cooperates with the Heinrich Böll Foundation, which also is developing a scenario leading to 100% renewable energy for Ukraine.

In each country, the organisation in charge will calculate economic effects of the main elements of the transition and will estimate how the renewable-energy transition will affect employment. All of the plans will be presented during the coming months, both at national events and at the INFORSE-Europe seminar in Denmark, August 21-24. The organisations also are preparing publications with the scenarios and proposals, to be available in English as well as in the national language. English versions will be available at www.inforse.org/europe/ASET.htm.

The work involves INFORSE-Europe and is managed by the Danish NGO SustainableEnergy with support from CISU, Denmark.

Crunch Time for EU 2030 Plans

In November, 2016, the EU Commission published the largest set of legislative proposals in the history of European climate policy. Since then, EU countries and Parliamentarians have been busy discussing the many proposals.

INFORSE-Europe was quick to react with comments on the new proposals for the renewable-energy directive, the energy-efficiency directives, the electricity-market directive, and the new regulation of the EU Energy Union.

Some of our comments are:

- We welcome the new special roles for local renewable-energy communities that the EU Commission included with the proposed changes to the renewable-energy directive and to the electricity directive.
- We welcome the proposed new rights of consumers who produce their own energy (prosumers).
- We disagree with the EU Commission's proposal requiring that renewable-energy support schemes be opened to projects outside of the country that provides the support. This measure would undermine public and political support for renewable energy, and local economic benefits will not come to stakeholders in the country that pays the support.
- The level and scope of ambition should be strengthened, both for energy efficiency and for renewable energy.

In June, 2017, the EU countries agreed a common position on the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), including the proposal for increasing the energy-efficiency target from 27% to 30% for the period 2005-2030, but the countries included in the target some renewable energy at consumers' own sites. This dilutes the increased energy-efficiency ambition.

The EU countries also reached agreement on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) with requirements for national energy renovation strategies and for preparation of charging points for electric cars at parking places.

Finally, the EU countries agreed upon a revision of the EU energy label, which they simplified, so the most energy-efficient will be the A-class, scrapping the A+, A++, and A+++.

Consumer surveys have shown that it is much easier for consumers when the most energy-efficient equipment always has the same label (A).

During the fall of 2017, the EU countries and the EU Parliament will discuss compromises on the energy-efficiency directives (EED & EPBD). They also will continue negotiations on the other parts of the 2030 energy and climate strategies, including the renewable-energy directive. The hope is that they will agree in 2017. Then they can be ready to increase the scope and force of their ambitions in 2018, when the UN climate negotiations have adequacy of climate ambitions on the agenda.

Read all our comments at www.inforse.org/europe.

Better Policies for Sustainable Energy in West Africa

While the Western African countries in the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) already have agreed a plan in 2012 to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy, it is only recently that the plans are being implemented nationally, and still with many weak points.

These were some of the findings of the evaluations carried out in seven West African countries by local civil society organisations (CSOs) in INFORSE West Africa. Now, the organisations are promoting stronger policies for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Most activities focus on three countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal. In the work, the CSOs are cooper-

ating with the ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE).

Read the analysis (in French with English summaries) and information about the project at www.inforse.org/africa/West_Africa_ACE.htm and at www.endaenergie.org/accelerating-implementation-of-regional-policies-on-clean-energy-in-west-africa/.

These activities are supported within the project "Accelerating Implementation of Regional Policies on Clean Energy in West Africa", coordinated by SustainableEnergy, Denmark and with support from CISU, Denmark.



▲ Seminar for accelerating implementation of regional policies for sustainable energies, ACE Project, Dakar, Senegal, 8-9. February 2017.

Higher Ambitions in Implementation of the Paris Agreement, East Africa

In Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, civil-society organisations are working to increase ambitions for East African climate strategies. Tanzania Traditional Energy for Development Organization (TATEDO) in Tanzania, Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), and Sustainable Environmental Development Watch (Suswatch Kenya) are organising national coalitions to campaign for stronger climate actions than those currently included in the countries' National Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement.

There are good reasons to improve the climate strategies, even for low-emission countries like those in East Africa. The NDCs were composed under time pressure in 2015 as INDCs, in preparation for the Paris Agreement. Since then, development of ever-cheaper renewable energy has opened the door for countries to expand renewable energy faster and in ways that better promote their development. Thus far, the activities have included:

- Basic analysis of the respective situations in each of the three countries as well as of the region;

- Meetings to build the national coalitions in the three countries;
 - Meetings with national decision-makers and with the East African Community, including the East African Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, which is under establishment in Kampala, Uganda;
 - Capacity-building for civil society on climate, climate policies, and how climate policies can help local development; and
 - Participation in climate negotiations, Bonn, 2017.
- The basic analyses are now available at the organisations' websites and at www.inforse.org/africa/East_Africa_PIPA.htm.

The activities are supported within the project "Promoting the Implementation of the Paris Agreement in East Africa" (PIPA), with a focus on pro-poor low emissions development, coordinated by SustainableEnergy, Denmark and with support from CISU, Denmark.



▲ Launch of policy brief for climate negotiations and basic analysis of the situation regarding climate policies and practices in East Africa at the climate negotiations (SB46) in Bonn, May 2017.



▲ First PIPA Capacity building workshop in Tanzania, Dar Es Salaam, 2. May 2017.

▲ Stephen King'uyu from Kenya National Climate Change Secretariat speaking at the PIPA capacity building workshop in Kenya, 25. April 2017.

▼ Participants at the PIPA capacity building workshop in Kenya, Nairobi, 25. April 2017.



Coal Dilemma

While INFORSE members promote sustainable energy solutions, an increasing number of coal-fuelled power plants are built throughout Africa. In spite of cheaper renewable energy options, African power companies and private businesses are planning a large number of such plants, e.g., in Kenya, Tanzania, and Senegal. The plants are realised with large loans from foreign countries and are heavily promoted by the project developers. In Kenya, Suswatch, a partner to the PIPA project, has joined the campaign against the Lamu coal power plant, which in addition to more than doubling the CO₂ emissions from Kenyan energy sector, also creates massive local pollution and threatens the nearby historic Lamu Old Town.

AREI Concern

In March, 2017, the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) board validated 19 renewable-energy projects without due screening and without using its own principles (eligibility criteria, prioritization process, and others).

While INFORSE applauds the AREI in general, we expressed our concern over this particular process, especially over its lack of transparency and participation, in a letter to the AREI leadership.

Many other civil society networks and organisations, in particular from Africa, have expressed similar concerns over this decision.

Read more at www.inforse.org/africa.



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 a newsletter, a database of more than 1000 relevant contacts, and NGO seminars.

Projects

INFORSE's member organizations often work together to achieve progress through influencing politics, to build capacity through exchanges

of information and of services, and through cooperation projects. The last include, in the last 10 years:

- "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.
- Activities included development of sustainable energy plans, campaigns, exhibitions, and study tours.
- 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.

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

More: www.inforse.org

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