**Opportunities for scaling up Eco-Village Developments, ideas for scale-up in India**

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Following one year of the EVD advocacy project and the formulation of a proposal for the second phase, it is valuable to have one or more strategies to scale up the EVD concept and design strategies that can guide future EVD activities. This strategy can be realized through projects for implementation, capacity building, advocacy etc. The formulation of the strategies should follow a “theory of change” that clarifies how proposed activities are leading to the result of a more comprehensive scale-up of the EVD. There are two kinds of actors who are targets of advocacy: other implementers (like CSOs, CBOs, NGOs) who can perform the actual tasks of scaling up, and decision makers and policy influencers who act as facilitators through policymaking and have access to and can disburse the funds required for implementing the EVD more widely. Both of these aspects will be addressed in the sections below.

**Ideas for Scale-Up of EVD, India**

Based on discussions and consultations with various stakeholders in the Indian development landscape, we determined that the ideal primary candidates for the first stage of scaling up the EVD concept are the NGO sector and the private sector through their Corporate Social Responsibility programmes. Since the EVD is a grassroots based approach, one of the most natural agents for delivering EVD interventions to a wider audience are other grassroots NGOs who already understand the needs of village communities and have an established base of trust within them. Also, given the latency between influencing, changing and implementing policies, the swiftest route to scaling up is through other such grassroots practitioners who have the will, ability and mandate to carry out such development programmes throughout India. Importantly, it is through the establishment of a large scale evidence base across various geographies and contexts that can convince policymakers to create the enabling environment for support EVD.

The first step in recruiting these NGOs is in mobilising their interest through workshops, demonstrations and meetings through which they are introduced to the EVD concept. Local NGOs can then be provided with trainings through WAFD and INSEDA. Additionally, companies with CSR projects who are interested in climate change and development programmes are also natural partners and allies in taking this concept further and can be mobilised in similar ways. Of the 593,731 inhabited villages in India, we assume that about half of them will benefit in some ways from EVD as they are less favourably placed for centralised solutions.

The next step is training of the mobilized NGOs. To facilitate this training, it is essential to create a robust knowledge resource base about EVD to support scaling up across India. This knowledge resource base needs to include written documentation detailing the EVD processes, case studies, best practices as well as a technical guide with the interventions’ descriptions, designs, use cases and so on.

Since there is already an existing demonstration base of EVD villages, the following step is organizing on-site visits for NGOs, members of civil society, academics and policy makers. These visits allow for an interactive, practical experiential based introduction to EVD technologies. Importantly, for policymakers, this kind of early multi-stakeholder buy-in helps legitimize the concept in their eyes. To have success with these visits it is essential that the EVD technologies be well maintained and resources are available for training and upkeep.

An important means of reaching out to more geographically spread out regions is the use of mobile training teams. We anticipate needing several mobile teams of 2 persons each, comprising of a master trainer and mason who will carry mobile demonstration units and give training to interested parties free of cost. Interested, capable and motivated trainers can then be given training of trainers(ToT) for further dissemination. Thus, by creating a network of skilled EVD trainers, mobilizing NGOs and community members and getting Panchayat and district level interest, the plan is to create an EVD network about 200-400 NGOs and practitioners over a period of 5 years. With each local NGO potentially being able to cover 5-10 villages per year a total of 2000-4000 local NGOs should be involved, covering all rural states of India, if the EVD mobilised if the introduction is done over 10 years.

Following the training comes the implementation phase, where the trained persons from local NGOs implement the EVD solutions with villagers. The funding for the NGOs should (primarily) come from a combination of CSR funding, non-financial banking institutes, and Indian development funding (which can be enhanced with international climate financing, for instance from GCF).

To enhance implementation, trained volunteers or highly motivated “local champions” shall be appointed from the pool of existing beneficiaries for persuasive grassroots level advocacy and dissemination.

For the implementation it is important that with local financing for solutions, divided in grants for the first, local demonstration installations, for instance in each district and micro-financing for the full scale-up.

**Advocacy parts of the Scale-Up of EVD in India**

To succeed with the scale-up, it is important that the framework conditions are right for the implementation of EVD solutions and that means are available for it, both for involvement of NGOs (mobilizing, training etc.) and to set EVD solutions on equal terms with centralized solutions. This will require funding for NGO involvement as well as using existing and eventually additional public development funding. It will also require political understanding of political leaders from local to national level.

**Financing Scaling Up**

A critical challenge to operationalize the pledges at COP21 in Paris is the need for government action. NDCs thus serve as a critical interface in how the Paris Agreement can move from the idea stage to make implementation faster of low emission solutions. For policymaker buy-in, the NDCs serve as a nationally appropriate blueprint for climate sensitive development. This way, India’s listed INDCs serve as a means to mobilize national funding more expeditiously for climate change. Therefore, framing the EVD as a complement to INDCs is a key activity for tapping into funds for scaling up.

Not just in India but even in the rest of South Asia, international sources of finance need to interact with national and sectoral funding. By combining public sources (through various state and national schemes and funds) with international sources (including bilateral and multilateral finance) and private sources (through equity, private institutional finance), a lot of headway can be made in bridging the finance gap and getting funding for scaling up EVD. To do this, EVD needs to be presented as a solution that aligns with the funding goals of these diverse sources of funding.

Since no individual source of funding can be relied upon for financing the entire breadth of EVD interventions across all potential areas, it is important to diversify the targets of advocacy. The private sector is in this regard important for bulwarking the finance required and can be approached through its CSR programmes. Also, there are international sources of climate funding such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and GEF that need to be pursued. To attract these sources will require a combination of fundraising and advocacy. Advocacy with international perspectives will primarily be towards international climate funding.

In terms of the GCF, the main challenge is to transform GCF commitments into projects and project pipelines, especially related to low-carbon development strategies like the EVD which can also help with fulfilling INDC commitments. As a network of practitioners-researchers, we can explain how proposals interact with India’s development plans and SDG goals.

Thus, we hope that this multi-pronged strategy to scaling up will in the future help establish the EVD as a universal climate-resilient development strategy.