

AEPC e-NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to this edition of AEPC e-Newsletter. It is an electronic newsletter aimed at keeping you updated mainly about AEPC/ESAP activities. You can subscribe this through the AEPC website: www.aepc.gov.np

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1. News

A. Biomass Energy Component

a. Piloting of Institutional Improved Cook Stoves

BESP is piloting 165 units of Institutional Improved Cook Stoves by supporting the metallic parts of the technology through its regional centers. The metallic parts of IICS have been delivered to the respective RRESCs directly from the fabricator. These IICS will be installed in the hostels, army barracks, local hotels, guest houses, suitable small scale industries; etc. and at strategic locations of the programme districts. The main objective behind this piloting activity is to make users aware of the users regarding the improved technology as well as demand creation for the same.

b. Piloting of Tea Drying System with Gasification

BESP is in the final stage of installing Tea Drying System with Gasification technology in a local small scale Tea Industry of Ilam district. The technology is developed by the final year students of IOE, Pulchowk Campus hence as an initiation of collaboration with academic institution and implementing as well as promoting organization. The main objective of this piloting activity is to intervene with the improved technology in Tea industry sector as well as make the entrepreneurs of this sector aware about the improved technology.

B. SOLAR ENERGY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

a. Subsidy recommendation and payment for Small Solar Home System started

SSP has started receiving subsidy application form for small solar home system from qualified solar companies. Till date, around 1,955 applications have been recommended by SSP and REF has already disbursed subsidy to them.

b. SSP Brochure Published

SSP has developed and published a brochure. This brochure contains information on objective, working areas, outputs and implementation modality of solar energy Support Programme. It also has information on subsidy arrangement and delivery mechanism for solar home system and small solar home system. This brochure will be distributed to relevant stakeholders, solar companies, DEES/DEEU, VDCs etc.

c. Installation and Operational booklet of Small Solar Home System

SSP has developed and published an installation and operational booklet for Small Solar Home System. This booklet is intended to be distributed to SSSHS users. This booklet contains information on SSSHS subsidy policy, delivery mechanism, and installation and operation process.

d. Record book of Small Solar Home System

SSP has developed a record book to keep records of small solar home system owners at VDC level and District level. SSP has already delivered this booklet to DDC.

e. Qualification of Consulting Organization for Field Monitoring

SSP invited applications from interested consulting firms and NGO to carry out field monitoring of SHS installed under subsidy program. Field monitoring is carried out to ensure that program support is being properly utilized. Field monitoring has helped to promote quality SHS, after sales services and discourage misuse of subsidy facility. As the result of public announcements 16 applications were received. AEPC/ESAP carried out the detail assessment of the applications and selected following five organizations for field monitoring of SHS.

1. Centre For Renewable Energy (CRE)
2. Group For Rural Infrastructure Development Nepal (GRID Nepal)

3. Pioneer Architect and Consulting Engineers Pvt. Ltd. (Pioneer)

4. Sana Kisan Bikas Kendriya Sangh (SKBKS)

5. Universal Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd. (UCS)

The contract for the 9th Round of field monitoring of SHS has been signed with above consulting organizations.

f. Verification of Solar Home System

Field verification team comprising of Mr. Shivahari Budhathoki and Ishowar Khanal visited Rolpa district and another team comprising Mr. Puskar Shrestha and Mr. Saroj Karki visited Accham, Jajarkot and Salyan district. The objective of the visit was to verify the deviated cases found in the 8th Round of field monitoring.



g. 10% retained subsidy amount

AEPC/ESAP-REF keeps 10% of the subsidy as retention for after sales services. From the result of the field monitoring, a retention reduction ratio is calculated and accordingly the amount is retained in REF as compensation for not providing the after sales services as per program guideline and remaining amount is released to respective companies. Based on monitoring reports of the 8th round of monitoring, SSP recommended REF for release of 70.70% of retained subsidy amount to companies.

C.. Mini Grid Support Programme

a. VDCs electrified

New VDCs are electrified from 4 MHPs and 4 Pico-hydro projects in Nawalparasi, Taplejung, Okhaldhunga, Makawanpur, Dhading and Ilam districts. The projects are Devsat khola MHP (20 KW), Sadh khola MHP (18 KW), Mulling khola MHP (16 KW), Dunde khola MHP (18.5 KW), Gorangdi khola Pico-hydro (5 KW), Dovan dhap khola pico-hydro (3 KW), Lamfewa khola Pico-hydro (2 KW) and Tinkateri Pico-hydro (1 KW). A total of 877 households have benefitted from the new projects.

b. Invitation for Pre-qualification

AEPC has invited application from all interested Companies (both existing Pre-qualified companies / consulting firms as well as new companies / firms) for the following purposes:

1. Pre-qualification of Installation Companies for Improved Water Mill Electrification / Pico / Micro / Mini-hydropower projects.

2. Pre-qualification of Survey Consultants to carry out Feasibility Study of Micro / Mini hydropower Projects.

Terms of References for the Pre-qualification can be obtained from AEPC or can be downloaded from website www.aepc.gov.np. Deadline for the submission of the application is 30 days from the date of the publication of the notice (i.e. 27 November, 2009) in 'Gorkhapatra'.

c. Call for Proposals

Mini Grid Support Programme (MGSP) has invited Proposals for 'Updating Existing Pico-hydropower Formats for Subsidy Application'. Proposals are invited from the interested firms or consultants on the basis of Terms of Reference (ToR) made available at www.aepc.gov.np or upon request through e-mail. The last date for submission for Proposals was November 20, 2009.

d. Call for Proposals

Mini Grid Support Programme (MGSP) has invited Proposals for:

1. Conducting Micro-hydro Managers' Training

2. Conducting Micro-hydro Operators' Training

Proposals are invited from the interested firms or consultants on the basis of Terms of Reference (ToR) made available at www.aepc.gov.np website or upon request through e-mail. The last date of submission of Proposals was 29 December, 2009.

e. Monitoring visits

MGSP has planned regular visits to RRESCS and Micro-hydro projects with the aim of monitoring their activities in order to undertake anticipated activities on time and on an efficient manner. As per plan, following professionals carried out field visits to the following RRESC/Districts:

1. Mr. Devendra Prasad Adhikari: NCDC, Ilam
2. Rana B. Thapa and Giri Raj Dallakoti: RDSC, Doti and Bajhang
3. Gopal Raj Suwal and Rajan Acharya: Kalikot and Jumla
4. Nagendra Chaudhari and Ms. Manu Thapa: Udayapur and Ramechhap
5. Mr. Dibya Rajbhandari: Syangja

The visits were focused on appraisal/assessment of Detailed feasibility report, difficulties faced in implementation and management of programme activities, status of electrification scenario of RRESCs working districts, Carpet identified and verified scheme status, power output test, etc.

e. Approval of Micro-hydro Projects from TRC

Technical Review Committee (TRC) has approved 12 Micro-Hydro Projects for subsidy following:

c	Name of the Project, Address	Head (m)	Flow (lps)	Power Output (kW)	Beneficiary Households
1	Lungtung khola MHP, Koldanda VDC-4, Palpa	46.5	40	10	118
2	Pipe khola MHP, Khalanga VDC-8, Jajarkot	66	35	14	118
3	Dantoli khola MHP, Dantola VDC, Bajhang	55.17	215	60	690
4	Kheste khola MHP, Baireni VDC-8, Dhading	34	75	13	116
5	Karni bhasme khola MHP, Taptung VDC, Solukhumbu	107.9	17.6	11.5	105
6	Lomasa Dhamile khola MHP, Shyama VDC, Dolakha	17	350	32	100
7	Menthuma khola MHP, Tapethok VDC, Taplejung	26	59	8	96
8	Sandh khola MHP, Banjhakhet VDC, Lamjung	53.5	66	20	190
9	Siba khola II MHP, Tharpu VDC, Panchthar	79.5	110	53	477
10	Manang community MHP, Manang VDC, Manang	12	1500	100	554
11	Khaking MHP, Jate VDC, Udayapur	26	67	8.5	74
12	Daram khola II MHP, Kandebas VDC, Baglung	13	350	24	212

D. AEPC ACTIVITIES

Jaibik Indhan Karyakram (Biofuel Program)

A. Major Events

1. Activities for the Biofuel Program for FY 2009/10

For per this FY 2009/10 eight major activities have been listed under Biofuel Program which was announced after the approval from the AEPC Board Meeting and the support from the Ministry of Environment. Some of activities are taken as a follow up of the previous FY programs and other additional activities especially on research and development of *Jatropha curcas* have been added. Following are the major activities of this program for this FY 2009/10:

- a) Development of National Policy and Law on Biofuel.
- b) Development of Biofuel Processing Plant's Industries.
- c) Conduction of local level training on *Jatropha* plantation.
- d) Establishment of modern nurseries for the *Jatropha* Plantaion.
- e) Development of IEC materials on Biofuel.
- f) Establishment of oil expeller for the production of biofuel.
- g) Establishment of Germplasm Garden for the high yielding varieties of *Jatropha curcas*.
- H) Study on genetic source, biological and chemical properties of *Jatropha curcas*.

2. Call for Proposal to be Listed in Standing List for the FY 2009/10

On 2066/06/28 (14th October 2009) there was a first call for the proposals from interested organizations to work on the 8 major activities of the Biofuel Program for this FY. A notice was published in Gorkhapatra on 2066/06/28 and 2066/06/29 (14th & 15th October 2009) giving 15 days time to the interested organizations to submit their proposals. A total of 106 proposals from different organizations was received which are undergoing evaluation and selected organizations will be included in the Standing List.

B. Contracts with the consultants for the Assessment of FY 2008/09 Activities

1. A contract has been signed between AEPC and Mr. Jagadish C. Kuikel, Biofuel Expert, for the "Implementation of Nursery Establishment and Conducted Training" on 6th December 2009.

2. A contract has been signed between AEPC and Dr. Khem Raj Bhattarai, *Jatropha* Expert, for the "Assessments of the trail Project and Establishment of Processing Plants" on 6th December 2009.

E. Wind Energy Activities

⇒ Data has been collected from the new stations of Kamal Bazar Achham and Karnali Chisapani.

⇒ Developing guidelines for the pre-qualification of wind energy companies is under process.

⇒ Final Report of two pilot projects by Krishna Grill and Engineering Workshop Pvt. Ltd and Group for Rural Infrastructure Development Nepal has been submitted to AEPC. The project sites were Daha Khola of Haibung VDC, Sindhupalchock, for electrification and water pumping in Biratnagar respectively.

F. RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT PROGRESS

⇒ The Fund Accountability Statement & Memorandum of Observation (Audit Report) of the Renewable Energy Project (NPL/AIDCO/2000/2589) for the period of 1st January, 2009 to 15th July, 2009 has been sent to the European Union Nepal.

- ⇒ Quarterly Report from September to November is prepared and the report from June to August 2009 has been sent to EU Nepal.
- ⇒ Review meeting /Orientation program for Regional staff have been completed.
- ⇒ Revision and updating of the training manuals for the COs' capacity building trainings have been completed.
- ⇒ Advance level training program on Organizational Development and Management of CESP is ongoing.
- ⇒ M.D. Maharjan, L.R.Pathak, D.Pandey, M.Sitoula, A. K.C. and D. Shrestha participated in a conference titled "International Conference on Renewable Energy Technology for Sustainable Development (RETSUD-09)" jointly organized by NSES and Ecosian Co. Ltd,

Korea, Republic of, from 12-14 November 09 at Hotel Himalayan, Kathmandu.

- ⇒ M. D. Maharjan and L. R. Pathak Participated in a workshop titled “Assessing the Social Impacts of Rural Energy Services: Monitoring & Evaluation Workshop” organized by the AEPC on 5th and 6th November 2009 at Godawari, Lalitpur.
- ⇒ M.D. Maharjan and A.K.C. participated in the International Conference on Knowledge Management for Sustainable Development held from 10-12 December 2009 at Hotel Hyatt, Kathmandu.
- ⇒ REP Web Page is updated regularly.
Newsletter no. 5 has been prepared.

Programmes for the next quarter

- ⇒ Signing contracts with the successful ten bidders.
- ⇒ National CESP workshop

2. Training /Workshops Awareness Orientation Programmes

2.1 Solar Energy Support Programme

⇒Solar Electric Level I Training

SSP in partnership with SEMAN has planned to carry out 5 batches of Level I training programme. Out of which 2 batches (Dhangadi and Nepalgunj) have already been completed successfully. In Dhangadi, training program was organized from 16 November to 21 November 2009 and 40 participants attended the Screening test, out of them 38 participants successfully completed the training program and in Nepaljung, the training was organized from 26 November to 1 December 2009 and 50 participants attended the screening test, out of this 42 participants successfully completed the training.

⇒Training to Field Monitoring Staff

SSP conducted an orientation program for the technicians of the consulting firms to make them aware on the requirements, sensitivity of the monitoring task and report preparation of the field trips in two batches. First batch was conducted on 29-30 November 2009 at Park Village Hotel Kathmandu. The participants in this batch were monitoring staff that were involved in earlier monitoring sessions. There were 44 participants. The Second batch was conducted on 11-13 December 2009 at Godawari village resort. The participants in this batch were new monitoring staff. There were 98 participants in the training program.

2.2 Mini Grid Support Programme

⇒**Training Programme for RRES staff** Mini Grid Support Programme (MGSP) organized 3 days Training Programme for RRES staff on 'Enhancing Economic use of Micro-hydropower'. The training was held in Kathmandu from December 13 - 15, 2009. The training programme was targeted only to Business cum Social Mobilization Officer and Social Mobilizers from the RRESs.

2.3 Biomass Energy Support Programme

⇒Result Sharing Workshop on “Piloting of Portable Rocket Stoves in Terai Region of Nepal”

Model identification and field testing of the Portable Rocket Stoves in Terai Region of Nepal have been completed. STARIC Pvt. Ltd. is the consulting firm assisting AEPC/ESAP on this task. These identified models were field tested in three Terai districts; Sunsari, Bardia and Kailali. The consultant has submitted the final report including the findings of the field activity and a standard design of Portable Rocket stove suitable for Terai habitats. Likewise, BEP has also come up with a dissemination strategy for the extension of its programme in the Terai region. In order to use this study report as a tool for programme extension in the Terai region and seek the suggestions from the stakeholders working in the Terai Region on the dissemination strategy for this region, BEP organized a half day Result Sharing Workshop on “Piloting of Portable Rocket Stove in Terai Districts” on 15th November, 2009 at Hotel Orchid, Tripureswor, Kathmandu. The representatives from stakeholders of biomass energy sector mostly working in the Terai Region were the main participants of the programme. Ms. Karuna Bajracharya, Component Manager of BEP, presented the dissemination strategy of the component for the Terai Region and the Team from STARIC presented their findings of the activity. The programme was started with the opening remarks from Dr. Narayan P Chaulagain, Executive Director, AEPC, and ended with closing remarks from Mr. Niels J Thomsen, Chief Adviser, ESAP.

3. New Appointments and Departing Staff

⇒Mr. Bal Krishna Acharya, Social Mobilization Coordinator of REP resigned from his position.

⇒Mr. Rajlal Basukala, GIS Consultant resigned from his position September 2009. He was a dedicated

employee, so the entire MGSP team recognizes his great contribution during his tenure. MGSP team would like to wish his success in his future career.

4. Participation in National/International Workshops

⇒Mr. Dibya Rajbhandari participated in “International Observation Study Tour on Micro-hydro” during 10-16 October, 2009 in India. The purpose of the tour was to have first-hand knowledge and understanding on the innovative technology related to Mini-grid of Micro-hydro systems and interact with users (villagers) to share their experiences. The tour was helpful to expedite on-going pilot Mini-grid installation works in Baglung district.

⇒Executive Director of AEPC Dr. Narayan Prasad Chaulagain participated in the Workshop on “Engendering Energy Policy and Practice in Asia ”in Bangkok, Thailand (November 24-25, 2009), organized by UNESCO and ENERGIA. He also participated in the International conference on “Climate Change” from 8 to 20 December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

⇒National Workshop on AEPC Strategic and Organizational Development (SOD) Plan

SOD was conducted from 28 to 29 December 2009 at Gokarna Forest Resort. A total of 65 participants representing different stakeholders such as line Ministries, AEPC Board Members, INGOs, Associates of RETs, RE Experts, Financial Institutions, Programmes, Regional Centres, etc, participated. The two-day workshop was very much interactive and concluded with drafting vision, mission, goals, values and organizational structure.



Your suggestions ,observations and feedbacks are highly welcome. - AEPC e-Newsletter

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