



SARI/Energy Small Grants

Editorial

Dr P Venkata Ramana, Director, Clean Energy Development, Winrock International

Implementation of Small Grants Projects



This issue of the newsletter focuses mainly on the progress being made by various projects from the first round of grantees under USAID's SARI/Energy Small Grants program. Activities appear to be moving as per schedule, and some interesting results are expected. Meanwhile, projects awarded under the second round (see Vol III of this newsletter for details) have also begun implementation.

Under one such project, a framework would be established for developing regional standards and quality control mechanisms for micro hydro systems in SARI/Energy countries, many of which have considerable potential. Thus, development of standards will be a major contribution towards ensuring maximum benefits to the users. As an initial step, a regional workshop on "Developing Standards in the Micro-Hydro Sector" is planned by Energy Forum for early September in Sri Lanka, and several sector practitioners are expected to participate.

In another innovative project, Socio-Economic & Educational Development Society (SEEDS), India, along with ITDG Nepal and ITDG South Asia (Sri Lanka) are developing a gas-powered cycle rickshaw to partially replace manually-powered rickshaws to reduce drudgery, enhance the health of rickshaw pullers and maintain eco-friendly characteristics. So far, they are working on selecting a vehicle and finalizing the conceptual design.

Commercialization of some renewable energy technologies and attracting entrepreneurs into the sector has been a longstanding challenge in the region. The Institute of Small Enterprises and Development (ISED) is implementing a project to promote development of first-generation entrepreneurship in the renewable energy sector in India and Bangladesh. A "National Conference on Business Opportunities and Entrepreneurship in the RE Sector," was held in Cochin in July 2004. The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources, India and the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency supported the conference.

The Center for Environment Education (CEE) and its partner Sri Lanka Environment Exploration Society have begun a project to build capacity among youth in India and Sri Lanka in energy and water conservation linkages, methods/processes for efficient engineering and behavioral practices, and means of communicating for energy conservation. They will be holding their first Youth Meet in August in Ahmedabad, India.

These are only some of the several innovative projects funded under the second round of small grants. Apart from working on new ideas that would bolster the energy security of the region, these

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Participating Nations

Bangladesh Bhutan India Maldives Nepal Sri Lanka



Sharing Experiences & Lessons Learned

Several projects were awarded grants under Round I of USAID's SARI/Energy Small Grants Program in 2003 (see www.sari-energy.org/small_grants). While we covered the progress of two projects in the last issue, this time we would like to share with you the endeavors of some of the other Round I grantees to promote regional energy cooperation in South Asia.

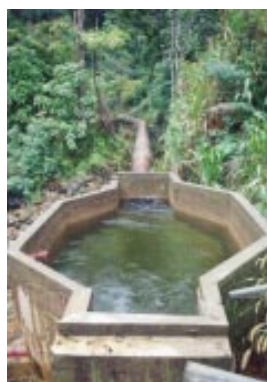
Building Micro Hydro Capacity in South Asia

South Asian countries have been developing small-scale hydro on their own without any collaboration since micro hydro development in each country occurred at different stages and were influenced by a variety of factors. The two most important factors that determined each country's rate of adoption of this energy option were availability of technology and resources, and government policies regarding community-owned off-grid electrification systems.

The need to share experiences, technological developments and capacity building across the region is regarded as an important step to further popularize the concept of micro hydro. Therefore, Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) South Asia initiated a program to promote capacity building in the sector and connect organizations and individual experts involved in propagating micro hydro technology across India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Economics

The cost of 5-20 kW small hydro schemes vary from US\$ 1,150 to 3,440 per kilowatt installed, which mainly depends on the magnitude of the civil construction, the design, distance to the household from the power house, and finally the supplier's charges for equipment and services.



A forebay tank where the water is channeled and silted before being forced into the penstock



Deterioration of quality in manufacturing and services

Many recent village hydro projects have been principally funded by bank credit and donations from governmental and non-governmental sources. The initial village contributions to the schemes were largely limited to labor input. Only a few schemes were substantially financed (over 20%) by village monetary contributions.

Increasing Demand & Deteriorating Quality

In Sri Lanka, the past few years saw a rapid surge in the spread of small-scale hydro projects due to government support, donor agency interest (especially the World Bank's Energy Services Delivery Project), local and international NGOs keen on replication of the model, and private sector investment in the manufacture and production of components and services. At present, there are around 200 micro hydro units providing basic (lighting and low wattage equipment) electricity requirements to some 3,687 households in rural areas.

But with the increased demand and workload a certain deterioration of quality in both manufactured items and services was observed. This led to a serious situation where the reliability of micro hydro as a rural electrification option was questioned by communities and policy makers.

Under a new program supported by USAID's SARI/Energy Small Grants, ITDG South Asia initiated a series of four workshops for micro hydro developers, equipment manufacturers and suppliers, Provincial Council officers, and consumers of off-grid micro hydro electricity to identify emerging issues related to the sector. Certain key issues were identified during these workshops and strategies to resolve these were discussed:

- The deteriorating quality of services was a huge problem for micro hydro developers and consumers. But manufacturers pointed out that at times it is difficult to meet production deadlines due to non-availability of good quality imported items and raw materials, while some even lack the required technical expertise. So there is a need to train them in design and fabrication to improve their capacity and skills to modify components as per site requirements.
- Technology transfer to communities, so that they can manage routine maintenance and upkeep of the unit, is a salient feature of sustainable village hydro schemes. The village community should become involved in the project at the design stage itself in order to familiarize themselves with the equipment.

■ Poor product engineering, incorrect cost saving methods, use of low quality material for casting, selection of small shafts and valves, and low quality components were attributed to frequent breakdown of systems.

■ There is another issue of old technology. In Nepal there have been considerable improvements in blade design and fabricating, which have not reached Sri Lankan manufacturers. Similarly there have been other advancements in India, China and Sri Lanka, which have not been shared with each other.

■ The present collaboration between researchers, design engineers, manufacturers, importers of components and service providers appear to be weak and unstable. This brings us to the program objective, which involves networking among stakeholders both in-country and regionally.

ITDG South Asia arranged meetings to lay the foundation for a Village Hydro Equipment Suppliers and Manufacturers Association (VHESMA) that is obtaining legal registration in Sri Lanka.

Initially, ITDG will facilitate an exchange of technology between Nepal and Sri Lanka for small-scale micro hydro component manufacturers. This will include on-

the-ground training and exposure visits in September 2004 for Sri Lankan manufacturers to upgrade their knowledge and skills of production at Nepal's Tribuvan University in partnership with the Center for Energy Studies. The training will be followed by



Another example of the problems with the civil works of the project where the forebay tank and channel have not been constructed properly

Promoting Energy Efficiency and Labeling Initiatives in South Asia

Recently there is an improvement in political stability among SAARC countries where policy makers are moving forward towards overall economic growth and cultural relations. There is also a marked improvement in the easy flow of exports/imports with minimum taxes and barriers.

In light of the above, stakeholders of concerned countries need to have common test procedures and protocols for complying to the product requirements that have common applications and usage for easy acceptability among the region. Therefore the involvement of NGOs would help generate market data to achieve

To build technological capacities of the newly formed Electricity Consumer Societies (ECS), training programs were organized by the Federation of Electricity Consumer Societies (FECS) with support from the World Bank Renewable Energy for Rural Economic Development project. The first two programs were conducted in Ratnapura (February 2004) and Galle (May 2004) districts. Over 35 members from 14 societies from both districts participated. Further programs are planned for later this year.



A meeting of the Federation of the Electricity Consumer Societies. Each village with a micro hydro unit has its own ECS that is involved in managing electricity use and monitoring units.

exposure visits to operating sites.

ITDG South Asia has also established dialogue with the Alternative Hydro Power Institute in India on sharing Sri Lanka's experience in quality and standards with India's small hydro sector. A few discussions were held with India's two leading hydropower equipment suppliers – Steel Industries of Kerala and Everest Energy, Bangalore – on possible future collaborations on equipment supply.

With the high demand for small-scale hydro, large-scale replication cannot be handled by a single organization. Capacity building for technicians, consultants and local authorities has now become a priority.

*Courtesy: MA Jayantha R Gunasekera
Technology Programme Leader, ITDG - South Asia
No. 5, Lionel Edirisinghe Mawatha
Kirulapone, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka
Tel : +94 1 829412; Fax: +94 1 856188
Email: JayanthaG@itdg.sl.lk; Web: itdg@itdg.org*

this. Therefore, a joint research study by the Voluntary Organization in the Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE), India and the Sri Lanka Energy Managers' Association (SLEMA) was awarded a grant under Round I to collect market data for promoting energy efficiency and labeling initiatives in the South Asian region. The primary objectives were to generate data on:

- The availability and popularity of five identified brands/models;
- Label information and violation, if any, as per labeling provisions;
- Information on energy consumption as claimed; and
- Identification of brands/models, manufacturers and their availability at the national level.





Methodology

In India, the four metros (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bangalore with populations ranging from 5 to 12 million) were chosen for the market survey to cover 140 retailers/ per product.

Beginning January 2004, professional market survey consultants were hired to develop questionnaires, evaluate data and verify results. Kaizen Field Services were assigned the task of carrying out the market survey in the four metros. Five products were identified – compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), ballasts, ceiling fans, refrigerators and air conditioners. An exploratory (pilot) survey was conducted of some retailers and wholesale dealers of major brands and models of these five products in Delhi markets and at the 6th International Exhibition of Power, Electrical, Professional Electronics and Allied Products organized by the Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers Association (IEEMA) at New Delhi in February 2004 (see photos).

Since the Delhi region represents a very large manufacturing, wholesale and distribution base in India, this helped developed a base for questionnaires for the retail market survey in the four metros. A similar exercise was conducted by SLEMA in Colombo.



Both organizations shared the progress of their activities so that maximum possible reliable data was collected, especially during the pilot survey, and finalized the questionnaires for the main survey. Information on labeling, as available on packages and products purchased, will help complete the report analysis.

Surge in Energy-efficient Products

During visits to various stalls of Indian and international manufacturers at the exhibitions, it was noted that there is a significant increase in the presence of energy-efficient products such as luminaries, domestic appliances, motors, durable products, heating appliances, and also non-conventional appliances. A wide variety of energy-efficient CFLs from many manufacturers, tubular fluorescent lamps of various types, especially T-5s, electronic ballasts, and electronic fan regulators were abundantly available, emphasizing competitive prices, attractive discounts, longer

Mr D Gunawardena, President, SLEMA, Mr S Fernando, Past President, SLEMA, Mr Wadhwa, VOICE India, with the project team during a visit to SLEMA



operating life and warranties. This is a healthy sign and depicts an inclination by consumers towards energy conservation. Some manufacturers also mentioned that their products were exported to various countries, including South Asia.

The next quarter will cover the main market survey of metros in India and Sri Lanka that will help identify the major brands/models of the products available and study similarity of features, applications and usage among end-users based on the socio-economic status of the masses. The market data would be shared among South Asian NGOs by establishing effective linkages. Since there is "free" trade among most countries, especially Indian products in Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, this data would benefit all partner nations about the availability of brands/models, type, category and usage.

Courtesy: H Wadhwa, Technical Manager, VOICE India
441 Jangpura, Mathura Road, New Delhi 110 014
Tel : +91 11 24319078-80; Fax: +91 11 24319081
Email: cvoice@vsnl.net; Web: www.consumer-voice.org

Regional Cooperation and Implications on Energy Security: A Case Study of Nepal, India and Bangladesh

The energy sector is a crucial and dynamic component of an economy and is directly related to economic growth of a country. The economic policy changes undertaken since the 1990s, with greater participation of private sector and deregulation of infrastructure, have resulted in higher growth rates within South Asia and, in turn, have led to an increased demand for energy. However, every country in the region currently suffers from serious energy shortages, albeit for different reasons. The gap between the demand and supply of energy has a great impact on both the energy and economic security of the region. Regional trade and cooperation will play a significant role in bridging the gap through developing regional sources of energy, especially since each country within the region is endowed with a particular energy resource.

The present study, titled 'Regional Cooperation and Implications on Energy Security: A Case Study of Nepal, India and Bangladesh', is funded by USAID's SARI/Energy



Small Grants program to attempt to analyze energy security in the context of potential regional trade in energy. To achieve this, the study first assesses the future energy demand and supply of each fuel. Preliminary results of this assessment

carried out by BUP, IIDS and TERI, as below, point to an energy deficit in the future.

Energy Demand Scenario

India

The India Hydrocarbon Vision 2025 had estimated the demand at 117 mmscmd (metric million standard cubic meters per day) by 2002, which is expected to gradually increase to 322 mmscmd by 2025, in case of a low growth rate of the demand, and to 391 mmscmd in case of a higher growth rate in demand. Therefore, the demand-supply gap ranges from 47 mmscmd in 2002 to nearly 355 mmscmd in 2025.

Bangladesh

The projections for Bangladesh reveal a demand for commercial energy of 1,871 petajoules (PJ) in 2020 in a low scenario and 2,650 PJ in a high scenario from 501 PJ in 2000. Indigenous supply of commercial energy amounted to 340 PJ in 2000 and would gradually increase to 1,169 PJ by 2020. This figure shows that Bangladesh's deficit would increase from 162 PJ in 2000 to 702 PJ in a low scenario 1781 PJ in a high scenario by 2020.

Nepal

In the case of Nepal, demand has been growing over time with the expansion of road facilities, i.e. motorization, urbanization and modernization. Projections of hydrocarbon demand are not available, although at present this source meets almost 90% of the demand. According to the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), the demand for electricity is projected to grow by 9.2 % every year during 2002-20 in one scenario, reaching 5,283.4 MW in 2020. During the same period, exportable surplus will reach 3,006.4 MW, whereas the installed capacity was only 470.8 MW in 2002.

Energy Supply Scenario

In South Asia, there is a high potential for developing indigenous energy projects through regional cooperation, particularly those involving cross-border trade in energy. Such projects include a pipeline for natural gas from Bangladesh to India, a high-voltage power grid line from Nepal to India, and other regional infrastructure such as railway, roads and transit facility via India to Nepal from Bangladesh and vice versa.

India

India is rich in coal. The Geological Survey of India puts the cumulative total of coal resources to a depth of 1,200 m at 245.69 billion tons at the beginning of 2004. Out of this, 916 billion tons are proven reserves, 116 billion tons are indicated reserves and 379 billion tons are inferred reserves.

In terms of production, India is ranked third in the world. Coal production in the country (excluding Meghalaya) during 2003-04 was 355.72 million tons (provisional) compared to 336.87 mt during 2002-03, thus showing a growth of 5.6%. Coal is a major source of commercial energy and is expected to continue its dominant position for a few more decades. Currently, 70% of the electricity generation capacity is through coal. In addition, other industries like steel, cement, fertilizers, chemicals, paper and small-scale industries are also dependent on coal. In the transport sector, though direct consumption of coal by the railways is going down on account of phasing out of steam locomotives, energy for electric traction is still dependent on coal converted into electric power. The increasing demand for electricity and the booming construction industry are the key drivers for the demand for coal in the future.

Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, the outlook for gas production is optimistic. While current gas reserves are estimated at 10.86 trillion cubic feet (tcf) – of which only 4.60 tcf had been consumed up to April 2002 – estimates of actual gas reserves vary from 30 to 50 tcf.

Nepal

Nepal has 83,000 MW of hydropower potential of which 43,000 MW has been considered economically feasible. Of the primary energy resources available, hydropower is the only one available indigenously. The current exploitation of hydropower is about 600 MW. For the rest of its energy requirements, Nepal is dependent on imports.





Prospects for Regional Cooperation

From this analysis of the gaps between demand and supply, it can be inferred that each of the three countries has varying needs to meet its future energy requirements. For instance, to a certain extent, the growing demand for electricity in India and Bangladesh could be met by constructing a mega hydroelectric project in Nepal. For

this, constructing a regional grid may be necessary. These options could be explored by further strengthening political and economic ties among these countries.

Courtesy: KR Dhungel, Consultant, IIDS
PO Box 2254, Baneswor, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel : +977 1 4494519; Fax: +977 1 4470831
Email: iids@wlink.com.np; Web: www.nepalnet.org.np/iids

Development & Maintenance of an Energy Efficiency Resource Center

This Resource Center on Energy Efficiency is being set up by the Sri Lanka Energy Managers Association (SLEMA) under the SARI/Energy Small Grants Program.

Under this activity, SLEMA has taken steps to develop and maintain a resource center in the field of energy efficiency to collect information on the subject and disseminate it where and when necessary, to provide assistance to organizations/professionals when formulating and/or implementing energy efficiency projects and services. The beneficiaries would be energy management professionals, research students, large energy users (industrial and commercial ventures), energy services companies (ESCOs), relevant Government and public sector organizations, NGOs and the general public interested in the subject of energy efficiency, in the region.

By establishing this resource center, SLEMA expects to create a one-stop shop, be it consultancy, research, training, project implementation or sourcing of energy related components, for any interested individual/organization. This would also be a window for beneficiaries to access similar institutions in the region and the world over. Overall this activity will make the region more aware of the importance of energy efficiency and the means to implement best energy efficient practices while promoting and facilitating further research on the subject. Information dissemination would take place mainly through the SLEMA web site where subscribers would be able to access information as required. SLEMA will send periodic e-newsletters, in addition to frequent updates on seminars, training programs, etc. in the region. The project duration would be 12 months. Thereafter the resource center would be managed by SLEMA with its own resources and funds

generated through the activities of the resource center.

Under the SARI/Energy project, the main activities identified are:

- Developing a web site where the relevant information could be hosted with links to other training institution partners in the region, academic and government institutions, etc. with the facility for interested individuals and organizations (ESCOs, industries, commercial ventures, etc.) to join as subscribers for obtaining and sharing information.
- Collect information/publications on the subject especially from institutions in the region.
- Facilitate interested personnel/organizations, to refer, obtain data either by visiting the resource center or via email with a minimum response time.
- Promote energy efficiency and facilitate research on the subject.
- Link deserving institutions (both government and private) with consultants/equipment suppliers/test facilities/policy centers via the database maintained by the resource center.



Creating awareness and popularizing of the Energy Efficiency Resource Center is expected to be accomplished in two stages. In the first stage, SLEMA would be assisted by the SARI/Energy Training Institution Partners, other organizations that promote energy-related activities, Universities in the region, etc. to propagate the concept. SLEMA will also advertise in a few select publications on energy, in the region.

In the second stage, the Resource Center will plan activities periodically promoting the advantages of being a subscriber to/obtaining services through the EE resource center. A few examples are:

- Providing suitable resource personnel for consultancy assignments
- Providing services to large energy consumers
- Facilitating research on energy efficiency



Participants at the training program for technical staff on energy savings in industries, hotels and service organizations organized by SLEMA in Colombo in May and June 2004

- Providing facilities for advertising energy-related services/equipment via its web site
- Organizing and conducting training programs, seminars, etc.

Status

The web site with the resource center is now accessible at www.slema.org.lk, but is still in the development phase. Subscribers can get registered by filling up the short form given in the resource center page of the web site and could then log on to the resource center either from the home page or any other page using a password selected by them.

SLEMA has already started contacting other Training Institutional Partners to obtain information on activities they carry out on energy efficiency. The objective is to have an assigned person in each organization to update the resource center manager on their activities.

Thus this project will ultimately help promote SARI/Energy's objective of facilitating the transfer of knowledge, experience and best practices throughout the region.

Courtesy: R Nissanka, Development Manager
SLEMA, 29 Fairfield Gardens, Colombo 8, Sri Lanka
Telefax: +94 11 2665737
Email: pr-slema@slt.net.lk; Web: www.slema.org.lk

Energy-Water Nexus: Policy Issues in Governance

Debating on the issues confronting the energy and water sector and the problem of co-management in the current political economy, a one-day Policy Dialogue was organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) at the **IWMI South Asia Regional Office at ICRISAT's Patancheru campus, on 11 June 2004** under the aegis of the SARI/Energy project entitled "Energy-Water Nexus: Role of Community Institution Models (CIMs)" (refer Vols 2 & 3 for details). The dialogue synthesized and critically assessed the role of the CIMs and deliberated on policy issues related to co-management options to address the energy-water nexus in a complementary and dual focus manner.

The inaugural session of the policy dialogue set the agenda for the day. A presentation on "Energy-Water Nexus: Issues at Stake", highlighted that the current policies and implementation of programs in the energy and water sectors have led to crises in both these sectors. In the current policy regime, opportunities exist to co-manage water and energy as a nexus, whereby positive outcomes in each sector strengthen the other. Management of the energy-water nexus requires policy changes and support at various levels, particularly at the community level. Several models of successful community institutions exist and can be strengthened further. This water-energy nexus is not unique to India, but is also experienced in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, China, Iran and Mexico.



Dr Christopher Scott, IWMI (left) and Dr AU Ahmed, BUP (right) answering questions at the end of the session on "Experience Sharing on Community Institutional Models"

A project session on "Experience Sharing on Community Institutional Models (CIMs)" looked at the role and functioning of four CIMs in India and Bangladesh, especially how they address the concerns governing the energy-water nexus. The four CIMs include *Village Bidyut Sanghas* and *Franchisee* in Orissa, India; *Transformer User Association*, Madhya Pradesh, India; *Cooperative Electricity Supply Society Limited, Sircilla*, Andhra Pradesh; and, *Kumirmani-Lalmonirhat Palli Bidyut Samity*, Greater Rangpur district, Bangladesh.

In summary, CIMs can at best carry out the following activities pertaining to the energy-water nexus: (a) improve pump set efficiency; and (b) strengthen local management of power distribution. But in either case these measures will not help the cause of groundwater overexploitation unless the power tariffs are very high and supply is made reliable. CIMs may also help improve the power supply conditions at the local level, but whether that would save water is doubtful. It may actually lead to increased usage of groundwater with increased production, which is desirable in situations such as those in Orissa and

Bangladesh, but not in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh where the need is to bring down the absolute use of groundwater. Also, in most CIMs there are macro-level constraints to improving even the power supply condition, especially the hours of supply. Rationing, essential for saving both power and water, is not what the farmers want. Therefore, getting people to participate in order to make it





Dr A Walia, USAID (left), Dr TL Sankar, Administrative Staff College of India, Dr T Shah, IWMI (back row), following Dr Sankar's presentation on "Dynamics of Power Management at the Feeder Level" during the policy session

successful in a meaningful way is impossible. Designing a pro-active supply schedule and enforcing it successfully is where they can contribute.

In summation, the Policy Dialogue discussed the role of electricity supply and pricing in South Asia's small holding agriculture sector. The real challenge is to develop appropriate mechanisms for targeting the subsidies, as well as developing solutions that are in the interests of the farmers, utilities, and in turn to the economy. The policy dialogue took the debate on energy-water nexus to the next stage, by identifying the role of CIMs, and deliberating on options, which can facilitate bridging the gaps in the policies governing the two sectors. In conclusion it can be said that CIMs are a creation of the power sector for their own welfare. Irrigators are treated as a costly and powerful nuisance and not as consumers with genuine needs in the whole reform process. The CIMs can bring in this perspective, which will be mutually beneficial.

Courtesy: Shirish Sinha, IWMI, c/o ICRISAT, Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh 502 324, India; Tel: +91 (40) 2329 6161; Fax: +91 (40) 2324 1239; with inputs from Avinash Kishore & P Narayana, IWM, and Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, BUP For details, please email: p.narayana@cgjar.org

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projects are fostering strong cooperation among these regional organizations. For instance, Technological Assistance for Rural Advancement (TARA) in Bangladesh (a Round II grantee) learned about ITDG's work with micro hydro from the SARI/Small Grants newsletter, have since gotten in touch with ITDG to discuss possible collaboration on developing the micro hydro industry in Bangladesh. Similarly, SEJ-Nepal has made contact with the Forum for Energy Journalists of Nepal (FEJON), an alliance of energy journalists created through the SARI/Energy Media Partnership to report on energy issues both in Nepal and the region. This is very encouraging in terms of developing sustainable partnerships. It is hoped that by the time of completion of all the small grant projects, a formidable network of partners will emerge to continue work in a number of key areas.

SARI/Energy Small Grants Program
First Regional Grantees' Meeting
4-5 October 2004, New Delhi, India
For details, please contact:
Johanna Gregory Partin at jgp@winrock.org
Anita Khuller at akhuller@winrockindia.org

Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship: India and Bangladesh*

This project aims to conduct a study on the industrial status of non-conventional energy in India and Bangladesh. Based on the results, an action plan will be created to develop first-generation entrepreneurship in this sector in India and Bangladesh. Results will be disseminated via a regional workshop.

Project Partner/Team Leader



Mr PM Mathew
Director, Institute of Small Enterprises and Development (ISED)
ISED House, ISED Road
Vennala, Cochin, Kerala 682 028
Tel: 0484 2335171/2347884; Fax: 0484 2347884
Email: laghu@asianetindia.com



* This project was awarded a grant under Round II (in addition to those announced in Vol III of this newsletter)

Round III Requests for Proposals
The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the third Round of the SARI/Energy Small Grants Program will be issued in late August/early September 2004. For more information, please check www.sari-energy.org.

This SARI/Energy Small Grants Program newsletter is being sent out electronically and by mail. If you wish to continue to receive this newsletter or know of other colleagues who would be interested, please send complete contact details (name, title, institution, mailing address, email address, tel, fax, and web) to Mrs Anita Khuller at [Winrock International India, 1, Navjeevan Vihar, New Delhi 110017 \(India\); Tel: +91-11-26693868; Email: akhuller@winrockindia.org](mailto:Winrock International India, 1, Navjeevan Vihar, New Delhi 110017 (India); Tel: +91-11-26693868; Email: akhuller@winrockindia.org)

Editors: Johanna Gregory Partin and Anita Khuller

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