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SARI/Energy

South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy (SARI/Energy) – Small Grants Program (SGP)

Rationale

The Small Grants Program (SGP) seeks to build the capacity of local institutions and to increase the number of institutions engaged in regional and rural energy issues. This is expected to be one of the main vehicles for public participation in SARI/Energy projects, among others, by community organisations and is expected to raise awareness and involvement at grassroots, local, national and regional levels by improving business and/or livelihood practices in SARI/Energy countries. In the breadth of its scope, it is considered valuable for SARI/Energy to also connect and engage local communities and facilitate the start of local action to address pertinent energy concerns.

The SGP Activities should be

- for non-political and non-religious purposes
- sponsored by a legitimate, established NGO or community group
- for social and economic development purposes, especially related to rural areas and/or low income disadvantaged people; and
- based on a substantial element of self-help, and complement the community's own efforts

The SGP also supports the South Asia Women-in-Energy (SAWIE) network, by providing assistance to small-scale self-help endeavors of qualified nongovernmental and community groups implementing relevant energy programs oriented towards women.

Activities

The applications will be evaluated on a competitive basis against a number of carefully drawn parameters. Keeping in mind the tangibles of cooperative energy research and outreach, the grantees will be chosen on their initiative and capabilities to address the following indicative areas:

- energy efficiency and conservation programs
- demonstrable technologies for energy efficiency and conservation
- rural energy development programs
- environmental impacts of resource development and energy use
- increased civil participation and awareness of energy issues
- improved access to and quality of rural energy
- development in renewable energy technologies and usages (domestic/commercial/industrial)



Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh and the Biogas Support Program, Nepal developed a replicable sustainable approach to deal with the rural energy crisis in Bangladesh using biogas technology with support from USAID's earlier Small Grants Program (2004)



International Development Enterprises (India) demonstrated a project to promote micro-irrigation technologies that helped reduce energy consumption in the range of 15-30% by using energy-efficient sprinklers. The project was supported under USAID's earlier Small Grants Program (2004)

Geographic Areas

SGP will fund initiatives throughout targeted South Asian countries provided they are linked to SARI/Energy Project activities. The target countries for the program are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.



Small Grants Program

Under the aegis of USAID, the execution of the current SARI/Energy Small Grants Program is being facilitated by Winrock International India. Three rounds of Request for Applications (RFA) concerning the above mentioned indicative areas will be announced. The applications will be evaluated and shortlisted on a competitive basis against a number of carefully drawn parameters. The projects would be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis.

The proposed timetable for the first round of Application process is as follows:

RFA announced	20 March 2009
Proposals due	20 April 2009
Short-listed proposals selected	Within a week from submission
Revised proposals submitted (if required)	A fortnight from the request of applications
Awardees selected	Early June 2009

The information on the SGP is also available on www.sari-energy.org. For further information, please contact:

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Implementing Partners



The Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal and All India Women's Conference, India demonstrated the use of solar dryers and trained self help group women with support from USAID's earlier Small Grants Program (2004). The above pictures are of participants at the Regional Review Meeting in Kerala, India (left); and participants on successful completion of a training program (right)

