Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Sub-regional training of trainers’ workshop on "Mainstreaming Appropriate Renewable Energy Technology in the Rural Productive Sectors of the Arab Region".  
27-28 July 2015  
Rabat, Morocco.

INFORMATION NOTE

1. INTRODUCTION

Within the context of its work on sustainable energy the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia is organizing a series of sub-regional training of trainers’ (TOT) workshops on “Mainstreaming Appropriate Renewable Energy Technology in the Rural Productive Sectors of the Arab Region” in selected ESCWA member countries (Jordan, Morocco, Oman and Sudan). For the purpose of this activity the sub-regions are:

- Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria;
- Morocco, Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia;
- Oman, Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates;
- Sudan and Yemen.

These workshops fall under the Development Account (DA) project on “Building Capacities in Developing Appropriate Green Technologies for Improving the Livelihood of Rural Communities in the ESCWA Region”. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of countries in the ESCWA Region to mainstream appropriate green technology initiatives into national development programmes and policies, in order to enhance livelihoods of rural communities. The project focuses on:

a) Building the capacity of public and private development institutions on assessing the appropriate green technology needs in rural areas and on understanding the mechanisms that support the mainstreaming of appropriate pro-poor green technology initiatives,
b) Enhancing the knowledge of policymakers and decision makers on policy options and building their capacity for using policy tools to enable an environment conducive for investment in appropriate green technologies in rural areas in the region.

2. BACKGROUND

Pressured by a growing rural population and scarce arable land, many rural communities in the Arab region are enduring difficult socio-economic conditions aggravated by insufficient and unequal national support. This has led to chronic unemployment, structural poverty and increased rural to urban migration. Riding out this vicious cycle requires a roadmap for change that follows a strategy favouring local economic growth to improve rural livelihood.

Fostering of environmentally-sound/green technologies is an important pillar supporting the transition towards sustainable development and poverty eradication. Among the most important drivers for human development is energy. The adoption of appropriate renewable energy technology (RET) in rural areas has the potential to diversify the rural economy, create new employment, and improve rural livelihood while preserving the environment, and can displace the use of unsustainable and health risk traditional energy sources such as biomass and low-grade fossil fuels.

Without direct government support dissemination of RET in rural areas is hindered by market forces. Overcoming such barriers requires that investment in RET generates direct positive return in term of enhanced productivity and increased income to ensure sustainability of RET adoption by rural communities. The rural productive sector can lead the way in the drive to introduce RET into rural areas. The RET will then be considered as productive tools and assessed based on its capacity to generate sound return on investment.

3. OBJECTIVE

The TOT workshop aims to build the capacity of rural development practitioners to map local resources, particularly those supporting RET, in order to plot the value chains and guide activities in rural areas; it also aims to enhance awareness of policy makers on the need to formulate the policy mix for developing integrated policy frameworks for sustainable rural development.

4. FOCUS AREAS

The implementation of “community-scale” sustainable energy solutions requires the contribution of both policy makers and practitioners. As such, the TOT workshop will cater for the needs of both audiences, by ensuring that:

a) **Policy** makers have a clear vision of sustainable energy in their own national context and in the rural context in particular. Only then could they come up with enabling policies that are essential for the mainstreaming of appropriate green technology. Those policies need to take into account the complex nature of both rural areas and energy.

b) **Practitioners** are well-informed and possess the right tools to ensure sustained implementation, and provide feedback for policy makers. Their work would focus on sustainable energy, with the primary
intent “to find an optimum energy supply/demand scenario for a pre-defined location and hence identify mechanisms by which this solution may be achieved”.

Participants should have available background data and information on (1) specific cases and on (2) the rural regions in which those cases are located. This will be necessary for the interactions during the training. An example of the information needed is shown in the reference document.

5. PROPOSED TRAINING OUTLINE

Day 1:

1. Sustainable Energy: Designed in two parts, to develop an understanding of:
   - Energy, energy returns, and sustainable energy.
   - Available renewable energy technologies, and their applicability and implementation for the Arab Region. This part of the session will be a presentation of a reference document, and will incorporate feedback from the participants on implementation of the technologies presented.

2. Rural Areas:
   - Understand how rural areas differ in their access to national, regional, or global market and their ability to produce goods and services.

3. Methodology and Mapping:
   - Understand how the methodology represents the logical “flow” of the production process, and develop the ability to accordingly “map” the entire flow from inputs to outputs, to reflect how productive it is. In this session, a reference document will be presented that details the methodology.
   - The methodology will be applied to elaborate case histories based on the template provided in the reference document.

Day 2:

1. Understand and apply the Value Chain method, with a focus on its applicability to rural areas in the ESCWA region.

2. Participants will bring in background data and information on (1) specific cases and on (2) the regions in which those cases are located. In this session, the methodology will be applied to elaborate case histories, and the Value Chain approach will be used to help determine how development may be enhanced

6. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:


\(^{1}\) Church and Ellis, 2007, p.7.
7. **Organization of the Workshop**

The UN ESCWA workshop is organized by the Sustainable Development Policies Division and the Technology for Development Division/ESCWA Technology Center in collaboration with the National Development Agency for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ADEREE) in Morocco.

8. **Participants**

The participants to the TOT workshop include 16 Moroccan nationals and two nationals from each of Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia.

The Moroccan nationals include:

A. 11 participants from the public sector including
   o 6 policy makers in the energy field
   o 5 experts in rural development

B. 5 participants from the local civil society organizations working in rural development (rural practitioners, SMEs, micro-finance, etc…)

C. The participants from the three other countries are from the public sector and include one expert in rural development and one policy maker in the energy sector.

9. **Administrative Issues**

Date and venue: The TOT workshop will be held on 27-28 July 2015 in Rabat, Morocco.

Language: French and Arabic are the languages of the workshop.

Accommodation and transportation: information will be provided in due time.
## 10. Correspondence

Correspondence and inquiries concerning the TOT workshop should be addressed to:

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