

Project Fact Sheet

Project Title	Increasing Access of Poor Nepali Communities to Biogas Technology to Strengthen Livelihoods and to Enhance Environment Management
Project Period	August 2007– August 2011
Donor	Ford Foundation
Project Background	<p>It is anticipated that a much higher percentage of future biogas plants will be sold to the poorer and more remote communities, access to credit will be essential. Though there has been relatively more success in promoting biogas through credit in Terai, access to biogas loans in the mid hills of Nepal has been limited due to a number of reasons, primarily because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits of biogas adoption have not been widely disseminated to mid hills households • Despite higher government subsidies for biogas installation in hills compared to the terai, the upfront costs of biogas installation is still too high for most households because transportation costs of construction materials is very high in the hills (as most mid hill areas are not well served by roads) • Low awareness of benefits and high costs means there has been limited demand for biogas demands, consequently microfinance institutions either do not exist for biogas promotion in mid hills, or where such institutions exist, they have not invested in biogas promotion. <p>CFUGs are one of the very few institutions in Nepal which organizes a sizeable number of households to undertake conservation and development activities. CFUGs have increasingly larger networks at village development committees, range post levels, district, and regional to national and international levels through FECOFUN. FECOFUN is an ideal institution to promote biogas, particularly in the mid hills of Nepal as they can reach thousands of households organized as more than 15,000 forest users groups.</p>
Projective Objective	Equitable access to clean energy technologies and benefits for sustainable livelihood and environmental justice in Nepal through capacity building of the community users groups and microfinance institutions to work jointly for biogas promotion to benefit poor households and to benefit the environment is the major objective of the project.
Activities/Components	<p>The major activity of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building of FECOFUN at National level to promote biogas through its member organizations • Piloting new approaches to pro-poor biogas promotion in at least 6 districts • Policy research and advocacy
Accomplishments	<p>WI is currently implementing a Ford Foundation funded project with the Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN). Some of the significant accomplishments of the projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost 4350 biogas plants have been installed in rural poor households in eight districts. • 21795 people have access to clean cooking fuel using biogas • Twelve Savings and credit cooperative have benefitted through various trainings and business linkages with other funding sources like commercial

	<p>banks, Biogas credit fund of AEPC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Almost 46336.17 person days ($46336.17 / 365 = 126.94$ person year) of employment have been generated directly for the promotion, financing and construction of biogas plants• 36 biogas masons were trained and certified by Nepal Biogas Promotion Association (NBPA) under different biogas companies.
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