

**Theme: The role of communication:Capacity building and GESI compatible strategies**

**Parallel Session 5-Designing Effective Capacity Building Strategies for Solarizing Agriculture**

Time: 11:00 – 12:30 Venue: Himalaya Ball Room, Hotel Himalaya

**Abstract of the session:** The objective of this session is to gather insights on designing effective capacity-building strategies for solarizing agriculture across three key domains. Firstly, discussions will focus on capacity-building interventions for implementation agencies, exploring strategies to enhance the knowledge, skills, and resources of entities responsible for executing solar irrigation pump projects. Secondly, attention will shift to capacity-building interventions for the adopters of solar irrigation pumps, with a focus on smallholder and women farmers to adopt and utilize these technologies. Lastly, the session will delve into the implementation of innovative technologies for better governance in solar irrigation projects. .

Time	Presentation	Speaker
11:00 -11:10	Design and Impact of Gender-Inclusive Capacity Building Interventions for solar farmers and technicians	Dr. Deepak Varshney Regional Researcher IWMI, India
11:10 -11:20	Constraints in the capacity of the Government sector professionals to initiate effective public sector programs/schemes	Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Chairman, Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) PCRWR, Pakistan
11:20 -11:30	Institutional and human capacity development for renewable energy programs	Mr. Seth Agbeve Mahu, Deputy Director, Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy, National Focal Point (NFP) to ISA Ghana
11:30 -11:45	Q&A on presentations	

**Moderator:** Atul Dhir, Objective Lead - South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP), USAID

- Dr. Biswajit Roy Chowdhary, Director General, Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute (GERMI), India
- Mr. Surat Kumar Bam, Secretary, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development, Sudurpaschim Province, Nepal
- Dr. Ruchi Badola, School of Ecodevelopment Planning and Participatory Management, Wildlife Institute of India
- Ms. Marwa Mejdoub, Energy Climate and Environment Lead, North Africa, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), UK Government, Tunisia
- Mr. Ashok Kumar Biswas, Deputy Project Director (SIP), Department of Agricultural Extension, Bangladesh

## **Panelist questions:**

### **Round 1**

1. Dr. Biswajit Roy Chowdhary: How can we ensure the long-term sustainability of Solar Irrigation Pumps (SIPs) through effective operation and maintenance mechanisms? Additionally, do you perceive a potential for digital modes to facilitate the transfer of technical knowledge to solar farmers?
2. Mr. Surat Kumar Bam: What role could local government play in implementing capacity-building initiatives for solar farmers, technicians, and other stakeholders involved in solar energy adoption and maintenance?
3. Dr. Ruchi Badola: In what ways can traditional knowledge-sharing mechanisms, such as women's groups, farmer cooperatives, and community meetings, be utilized to enhance awareness and understanding of SIPs?
4. Ms. Marwa Mejdoub: What collaborative approaches and partnerships are crucial among diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, private sectors, farmers, technology providers, and financiers?
5. Mr. Ashok Kumar Biswas: How can we integrate extension services targeted towards solar farmers into the current agriculture extension system? What role do you see for women extension agents in building capacities for women farmers?

### **Round 2:**

Common question: What is the single most important policy intervention (depending on their expertise) they think is needed to increase the capacity of farmers (both men and women), utilities or DISCOMS, implementing agencies, including the government?