

## Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N)

The Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) is a professional organisation established in August 1989 and transformed into a non-government organisation in October 1998. CRT/N develops, promotes, and disseminates environmentally-sound, rural/appropriate technologies to enhance the process of rural development, thereby improving the livelihoods of the rural population. Since its establishment, CRT/N has been involved in policy studies, programme development, and in the implementation of various community-based programmes. The programmes emphasise renewable energy and water conservation technologies that create options and opportunities to strengthen the capability of poor rural communities to respond to their basic needs.

CRT/N is involved in technical services for rural development through renewable energy technology development, environment and natural resources management, small-scale irrigation management, local water harvesting systems, technology for

women, and micro-enterprise development. The organisation is also actively engaged in upgrading rural technologies and in developing new technologies to better respond to rural needs.

CRT/N works closely with government organisations, NGOs, INGOs, educational institutions, and community-based organisations to promote and disseminate appropriate technologies. CRT/N also provides assistance in conducting training and workshops for project staff, grassroots community leaders, and development promoters to enhance their capability in the application of rural technologies.

CRT/N serves as member and national focal point for various regional and international agencies that contribute to the development and dissemination of rural/appropriate technologies, sustainable energy, and gender mainstreaming through an exchange of information, innovations, expertise, and experiences. Since 1990, CRT/N has been one of ICIMOD's key partner organisations in Nepal.

## Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA)

Initiated in 1981 to address the preservation of the environment and the appropriate development of the Himalayan region in general, and the Central Himalayan region of India in particular, the Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA) is a non-profit, independent body. For over two decades, CHEA has contributed to creating conditions that have enabled village communities to manage natural resources and benefit from them on a sustainable basis.

CHEA's emblem is an oak leaf. The species occupies nearly 20,000 sq km in Uttaranchal at between 1000 and 3000 m elevation. Oak forests are associated with water, humidity, biodiversity, and life in general in the hills. The oak is the tree of the masses and is the lifeline of village communities. The fresh new oak leaves are a useful source of fodder, while the acorns are a favourite food for some species of wildlife. The oak leaf emblem symbolises CHEA's role in catering to the livelihoods and needs of the hill communities and in safeguarding the wildlife of the region.

Financial support from the Ford Foundation initially allowed CHEA to evolve a method for eco-development in the minor Khulgad catchment of the Koshi River in Almora district of Uttaranchal, on the central theme of integrated development with people's participation. This was followed by a grant

by the Ford Foundation to replicate the experiment in other areas and to sustain a field laboratory in the Khulgad catchment.

CHEA also stresses the need to link local activities to global issues such as climate change. The current interest in issues of carbon sequestration and ecosystem services through direct community representation is an initiative in this direction.

Now on its 24th year, CHEA has taken up a new initiative, the Livelihood and Sustainable Development Programme. This focuses on action and outreach activities, integrating livelihood perspectives with environment and development that promises to yield income-generating options, from ecotourism and markets for organic products to strengthening livelihood security for marginalised hill populations.

CHEA's vision is prosperous, self-reliant, and secure mountain communities committed to peace, equity, and environmentally-sound sustainable development. CHEA is committed to developing and providing integrated and innovative solutions, in cooperation with regional and international partners, that foster direct action and policy change for overcoming the environmental, economic, and social vulnerability of mountain peoples.