



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



SEWA
SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



11th INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

VIRTUAL | SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2021

Regional Workshop on “Business models for the integration of renewable energy technologies into rural development”

25 October 2021 at 13:00 – 15:00 (Beirut Time)

Please register using the Zoom link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86568953161?pwd=TFhWY3FCeEowSlRhSml0RnJkchrZz09>

Passcode: 159351

Under the [Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region \(REGEND\)](#)

Organizers: UN ESCWA, Sida and SEWA

Background

In rural areas, access to energy or modern, efficient technologies can be limited and unreliable or prohibitively expensive through traditional means. Furthermore, the reduced or lack of access to energy often results in lower economic development and poverty. However, small-scale renewable energy technologies can offer affordable, sustainable, and environmentally friendly alternatives to increase productivity and economic activity and enable the just and inclusive energy transition for rural communities. This is why the integrated business model focuses on linking renewable energy technologies access with local development initiatives.

The [United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia \(ESCWA\)](#) and [the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency \(Sida\)](#) are implementing the “[Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region \(REGEND\)](#)”. By using appropriate small-scale renewable energy technologies for productive activities and entrepreneurial development, REGEND aims to improve the livelihood, economic benefits, social inclusion and gender equality of Arab rural communities, particularly marginalized groups, through a bottom-up and integrated approach by addressing energy poverty, water scarcity, vulnerability to climate change and other natural resources challenges in three targeted countries, namely: Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia.

The [Eleventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development \(IFESD-11\)](#) is organized by the United Nations Regional Commissions in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, and other international organizations. Due to the continuing situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, IFESD-11 will take place as a series of workshops on sustainable energy and the role of energy in achieving sustainable development that will be conducted in a hybrid format (limited in-person participation and online).

Within the framework of IFESD-11, The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in partnership with the [Self-Employed Women's Association \(SEWA\)](#), is organizing a [regional workshop on “Business models for the integration of renewable energy technologies into rural development”](#) on 25 October 2021 at 13:00 – 15:00 (Beirut Time).

Objective

The workshop will convene regional and international partners active in sustainable energy development, rural development, and gender empowerment to explore and discuss business models that integrate renewable energy technologies into rural development with a focus on gender empowerment. The workshop will facilitate the exchange of experiences on the challenges and opportunities facing the conceptualization and application of integrated business models and will also emphasize the importance of complementing renewable energy technologies as enablers with area- and activity-specific capacity-building and productive equipment that will develop and enhance the knowledge, skills, and capacity of rural populations towards the improvement of their income-generation activities.

The wealth of experiences exchanged will enable the collection of best practices and lessons learned from the field and will hence lead to the formulation of recommendations that address and improve the process of conceptualizing and applying integrated business models in rural areas.

Agenda

Setting the scene and welcoming remarks: (10 mins)

- Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief of the Energy Section, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA.
- Ms. Reema Nanavaty, Director, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), India.

REGEND business model presentation: (15 mins)

- Ms. Syham Bentouati, Consultant, ESCWA.

Interactive panel (Davos style) (60 mins)

- Mr. Jauad El Kharraz, Executive Director, Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE).
- Ms. Reema Nanavaty, Director, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), India.
- Ms. Sumaya Mahomed, Uganda Director, Power for All, Uganda.
- Ms. Kaouther Kouki, Chief of Service, Agence de Promotion des Investissements Agricoles (APIA), Tunisia.
- Mr. Mohammad Ramadan, Project Team Leader, Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Project, Cowater International, Jordan.
- Mr. Samer Zawaydeh, Independent Engineer, Jordan.

Q&A (15 mins)

Wrap-up (5 mins)