

KARNATAKA STATE CENTRE
Training Programmes in Rural Areas

ISLE-KSC has tied up with other NGO's engaged in imparting training in rural areas. This is based on the project proposal that ISLE-KSC had submitted to the European Commission for training people in villages for utilisation of Solar Photovoltaic panels as well as different types of fluorescent lamps and Light Emitting Diodes in households and in common areas under village panchayats. The first programme was conducted at Chennapattana October 2009 (see Newsletter Vol IX No. IV) and the second one was conducted at Gubbi January 2010.

While no manufacturer has been associated with this activity, Karnataka State Centre feels that it would be desirable that the manufacturers step in as they could set positive examples of cost effective and environmental friendly installations in common or community facility areas in villages, which will open up the vast rural household market.

The second programme of training on Solar Lighting was conducted in association with TIDE (Technology Informatics Design Endeavour) for women. This programme had a different orientation, with a focus on highlighting the economics or cost benefit of retrofitting existing lighting installations with energy efficient light sources. The program was attended by 15 women in the age group of 22 to 45 from 7 different villages from around the small town of Gubbi, in Tumkur district.

The participants were trained in the basics of

- entrepreneurship,
- organisation of information dissemination meetings in the neighbourhood.

ISLE-KSC added the following inputs:

- Explaining the benefits of replacing GLS lamps with fluorescent lamps either TFL or CFL,
- Solar panel (SPV) and the associated devices, like control unit, battery etc, including aspects of orientation,
- Replacement of 40 W or 36 W tubes with 28 W tubes,
- LEDs & LED based light fittings including their applications, both for general lighting, portable light sources and as standby/emergency lighting.

The second stage of the training covered the method of assessing, working out and explaining the life cycle cost benefit analysis for the proposed changes. The positive environmental aspects such as the benefits associated with energy efficiency, benefits of reduction of carbon emission by switching over to solar energy, and the negative aspects such as mercury pollution from improper disposal of fluorescent lamps were explained in brief.

TIDE has scheduled the follow-up programmes during the following fortnight and will give support by handholding in each one of the initial programmes, which will now be organised by the trained participant groups in their respective villages.