

GREENING NEPAL'S ECONOMY: TVET AS AN ENGINE FOR GREEN GROWTH

Creating long-term, economic growth and robust, sustainable employment is critical to Nepal's development. For Nepal in particular, rapid urbanisation, the impacts of climate change, and its susceptibility to natural disasters undermine its economic stability, creating new imperatives that require a transition to a green economy. By transforming its economy into a driver of sustainability, Nepal will be primed to take on the major challenges of the 21st century – from urbanisation and resource scarcity to climate change and economic volatility – thereby securing more sustainable economic and social development.

The role of TVET is critical to this transition, both in developing the “green skills” required of the future workforce and in working with businesses and industry sectors to respond to current and emerging needs for sustainable professional practice. Dakchyata: TVET Practical Partnership is committed to developing a TVET system that will enable businesses to be competitive by focusing on environmental sustainability. It is investing funds in building capacity and learning from TVET providers as they develop models to support a green economy to help shape wider practice across Nepal's TVET sector.

What is the Green Economy?

An inclusive green economy is one that improves human wellbeing and builds social equity while reducing environmental risks and scarcities. An inclusive green economy is an alternative to current economic models that promote overconsumption, exacerbate inequalities, encourage waste, trigger resource scarcities, and generate widespread threats to the environment and human health. For Nepal, as in other countries, a green economy can make economic growth resilient to environmental degradation and climate change, which at the same time protects food, water, and energy supplies to the people.

The role of TVET in the Green Economy

TVET has the potential to play a key role in the development of Nepal's green economy. A “greening” economy needs well-trained skilled workers who are capable of applying green skills – which purposefully limit the use and impact of business practices on natural resources. This influences employees' scope for action and decision-making, spreading sustainable practices throughout the economy. Investing in greening TVET makes social and economic sense. From a social and economic perspective, greening TVET increases the employability of graduated students. A graduated student who has the knowledge, skills and competencies needed to take on a green job, will be ahead of the workforce, and more employable in the 21st century. Their impact on companies' profitability will be greater, increasing the long-term future of the business thereby strengthening economic development. Further, as an essential bridge between employer and employee, TVET can improve responsiveness to demands for green skills by companies and communities, thereby increasing productivity, and increasing wage levels.

What does a Green TVET system look like?

TVET is the strategic entry point for ensuring a world of work that contributes to social cohesion and promotes environmentally sound sustainable development. At a policy level, a green TVET can take a strategic view of the role of the green economy in the country's future growth, integrating TVET into the sustainable development agenda, and planning for TVET institutions to adapt their processes and training. A green TVET system can work closely with business and industry sectors, investing in research and analysis, to anticipate and meet current and future needs for sustainable business development. A green TVET system engages in curriculum development, supplementing and developing course content with skills in greener practices. In supporting these changes, a green TVET system can provide tools, guidance, quality assurance methods and training for TVET institutions. More broadly, a green TVET system builds connections between training and its application, sharing best and innovative practices, working with private sector federations and employers to spread ideas, listen to challenges and meet need.

How is Dakchyata supporting the transition to a Green TVET system?

Dakchyata is funding ten Practical Partnership Pilot models with TVET providers to test new and innovative ways to engage employers in the development and delivery of skills training, capturing and sharing learning for the benefit of the wider sector. Within these grants, Dakchyata is working with the Nepal's Green Growth Initiative to strengthen the capacity of grantees with knowledge, understanding, and skills to identify and integrate greener, climate-resilient, low-emission economy practices into their training pilots which can be replicated and be developed at scale. As a first step, Dakchyata is supporting the "greening" of the TVET providers as organisations. The aim is to explore and test compelling new models of training and organisational behaviour that can inform wider practice and policy development for Nepal's TVET sector.

The key outputs of this work include:

- Assessment of understanding and knowledge about green economies amongst the pilot teams
- Design and deliver a series of capacity building trainings to develop knowledge and understanding of green economies focusing on:
 - Energy efficiency
 - Water Consumption Plan (rainwater harvesting, grey water plan)
 - Solid Waste management Plan.
 - Sustainable Mobility Plan
- Support individual pilots to develop action plans to improve how they incorporate considerations of greener economies within the pilots.
- Identify and signpost sector specific (agriculture, tourism, and construction) organisations working in the field of climate control, alternative technologies, waste management, environment protection etc. and key reference resources for Practical Partnership Pilots to access to continue to build capacity.

Delivering the ambition for a Green Economy

Whilst TVET is at an early point in the journey towards supporting a green economy, Dakchyata recognises that there is already significant commitment and instances of innovation and good practice throughout Nepal. As Dakchyata draws together learning from its pilot projects, it will seek to:

- Share learning widely, focusing on practical lessons for the sector
- Connect a broad range of stakeholders to conversations on how TVET can best contribute to the green economy, listening to insights and challenges
- Engage with senior decision makers from the state and private sectors on the planning and policies required to support the transition to a green economy that builds a more secure, sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous future for all.

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