



IMPROVED COOK STOVES COLLOQUIUM 7TH JUNE - NAIROBI

By Margaret C.A. Owino
Director: Solar Cookers Int. (East
Africa)

Who we are.....

- An international organization
- Promoting the use of clean energy and clean energy technologies
- Especially the use of solar cookers for cooking and solar water pasteurization.
- Integrated cooking when the sun does not shine or at night and early morning.

Where we work...

- Mainly in Kenya
- But also in the wider eastern Africa
- Capacity building for partners (User training and TOT)
- Enabling access to supplies
- Evaluating progress made
- Disseminating results

How we work.....

- Undertaking community projects and even relief projects in refugee camps
- Working with like minded NGOs, GoK departments, CBOs etc
- Technology innovation, identification, access
- Public education and awareness
- Sale of the technology, monitoring usage and documentation of progress made.

PROBLEM



Issues....

- Reduction of indoor air smoke from cooking and lighting
- Fuel wood scarcity – offering alternatives
- Health issues related to cooking, unsafe water
- Enabling access in a sustainable manner – community development

INTERVENTIONS



Fireless



Solar



Upesi



Gas

Bola



KCJ



**Rocket
Stove**



METHODOLOGY

- Use of SCOREPs from initial project, assign each to a specific location, total (8 locations)
- Upgrade / stock site office to match needs of wider project scope
- Train SCOREPs: additional information and skills to handle at least 5 interventions.
- Honing their skills in production and social marketing skills.
- Ease of identification and promotion: T-shirts, business cards, caps, mobile phones and bicycles

KADIBO SCOREPS



CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

1: LACK OF INITIAL CAPITAL:

- Funding from USEPA totaling to 150,000\$ in the two years and co-funding from SCI—80,000\$.

2. COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE AND SUPPORT

- Project officers officially introduced the project to key stakeholders.
- Official letters introducing the entrepreneurs to community, church and institution leaders.
- Sharing information and results with key stakeholders who further spread the information.
- Encouraging the leaders to be first adopters and so lead by example.
- Using other agencies forums to spread the word.

3. IGNORANCE OF THE NEGATIVE HEALTH IMPACTS OF IAP.

- Knowledge enhancement talks and seminars on effects of smoke on health.
- Statistics and real life experiences recounted.
- Flyers with information, and graphics of parts of the body affected by IAP published and distributed.
- Skits, drama and songs on the problem and the solutions available.
- Flyers with graphics of the interventions available to assist in smoke reduction, where found and from whom.

TSHIRTS & FLIERS



RES NGIMA MAR JOODI
Iro hinyo migawo mangeny e del

The diagram shows a profile of a human head and neck. Arrows point from various parts to thought bubbles containing Swahili words:

- Eye:WAN'G
- Ear: IT
- Nose: UM
- Mouth: WICH
- Throat: KOR KOD OBO
- Shoulder: DUOL

PRACTICAL ACTION
Technology. Changing society.

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AAYMCA Building (2nd Floor), Along State House Crescent, Off State House Avenue.
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Cell: 0727 108 408 www.practicalaction.org
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4. AGE OLD HABITS AND ATTITUDES.

- Group talks, school talks and public demonstration of the technologies in markets, schools
- Radio spots and discussions by beneficiaries
- Talks in churches, funeral gatherings, farmers field days.
- Promotional materials, T-shirts, caps, aprons
- Model kitchen demonstration.
- Home visits and encouragement
- Working with partners – MOH, Local administration, other NGOs

5. MARKET ACCESS :

- Market survey to establish needs and resources.
- Enabling access through purchasing and distribution of technologies to various locations.
- Entrepreneurs identifying, training and working with sub – stockists / installers for further market penetration.
- Agreeing on pricing and area delineation.
- Promoting only quality products

MARKET ACCESS



6. SUSTAINABILITY VS COMPETING FELT NEEDS:

- Enlisting the support to micro–credit organization e.g. VI Agroforestry.
- Training in village savings and credit
- Saving and borrowing to meet felt needs and for business growth.
- Sharing of profits and motivation to continue with saving
- Emerging saving and loans groups in the area
- Men joining the energy technology business
- Adoption of solar lamps to enhance Indoor air quality.

SUSTAINABILITY



Results from one such project:

- From 8 initial entrepreneurs, now there are additional 32 women involved in the stoves project total 40.
- 1,560 households have improved on their cooking technologies, that adds up nearly 10,000 people enjoying a reduction of the effects of IAP, $\frac{1}{4}$ the population.
- Awareness is very high and over 31,085 people have been reached with the smoke message.
- 6 manufacturers are producing stoves and 9 schools are using the interventions in food preparations.
- Mushrooming of the village saving and loans groups (VSL)
- Increased inquiries and sales to areas outside the project area.

LESSONS :

- There is a logical trend in stoves adoption, from the known to the less known.
- The critical message that appeals to buyers is one affecting their health, then saving of income and finally energy and environmental concerns.
- Stoves must be accessible and affordable.
- Sustainability of the enterprises is almost assured through access to credit and a ready market.
- Commercialization may leave out the vulnerable, so other strategies must also be adopted to serve them.

CONCLUSION

The initiation, progression and sustenance of energy technology related businesses is possible with: start up funding, consistent monitoring, creation of linkages and enabling partnerships as tangible health and economic benefits are felt by the communities involved.

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