A unique success story – ready to be duplicated

It only appears to be a simple stove made from soil, grass and water but it significantly improves the lives of its users and is an answer to the wood fuel crisis Uganda is suffering from.

The Energy-Saving Stoves Project is a unique success. Since its initiation in November 2004, the stove concept has reached more than 200,000 families in Uganda's Bushenyi and Rakai districts. 87 percent of households today prepare their daily meals on efficient stoves. Such a high coverage rate has never been achieved so far, not even in other African countries.

Since the project includes such a high percentage of the population, it entails a tremendous impact. The disseminated stoves save lives because they significantly reduce indoor air pollution.

Moreover, every single stove saves 1.5 tonnes of firewood per year. As of January 2007, the Energy-saving Stoves Project will tackle ten more districts, which should be covered by the end of 2008.

The project – modern stoves for a modern country

The Energy-Saving Stoves Project in Uganda was launched by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) together with the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) on behalf on the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Substancial financial support comes from the Dutch Government. The project is part of the Energy Advisory Project (EAP), which addresses the current energy crises in Uganda.

To provide efficient energy the Energy-Saving Stoves Project works together with different NGOs like the Integrated Family Development Initiative (IFDI) or the Integrated Rural Development Initiative (IRDI), which are deeply rooted in the districts.

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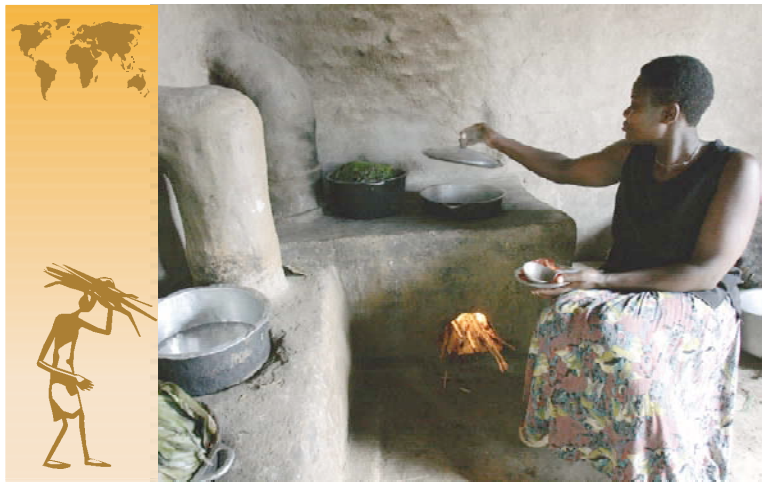


Uganda

The Energy-Saving Stoves Project

New Stoves Improve Life and Save Firewood

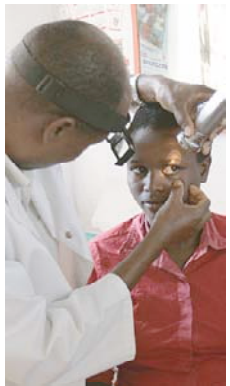
gtz German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
Energy Advisory Project

Traditional stoves threaten Ugandans' health and habitat

Uganda is a green country with meadows, cornfields, and banana plantations. Hardly a tree is to be found in populated areas though. This comes as no surprise, since Uganda's most important energy source is biomass. One of the reasons for the forest depletion is the need for cooking energy. Almost everybody uses wood fuel.

In the Bushenyi district, people suffer from growing wood scarcity. Every second family lacks their own wood supply. Mostly women gather wood in public forests or steal it from private ones. If they are caught, they are beaten and oftentimes raped.

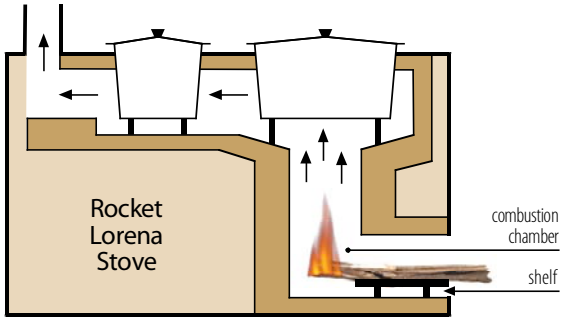
The huge demand for firewood is also due to the traditional three-stone fire, which is inefficient and dangerous. Many Ugandan women and children suffer from heavy smoke, which causes eye infections, severe coughs and headaches. The WHO estimates that every year, 1.5 million people worldwide die from indoor air pollution.



A scientific solution made of clay and grass

As rural Ugandans cannot afford kerosene, LPG or electric energy, they have to use the existing resource – wood, agricultural residues, or dung – more efficiently. To develop appropriate stoves, experts of the project have built alternative stoves based on the highly efficient Rocket Stove Technology, developed by the Aprovecho Institute.

In order to offer an affordable stove design, two types of stoves made of local materials were developed; the Rocket Lorena Stove for two pots and the portable one pot Shielded Rocket Stove.



Benefits of the improved stoves:

- The stoves can save up to 60 percent of firewood.
- The design of the combustion chamber guarantees that the wood burns efficiently and produces hardly any smoke.
- The stoves for the villagers are made from soil, grass and water, materials even the poorest can afford.
- Thanks to the special design, women can use two pots at a time. Since the pots are inserted into the stove, the heat comes both from below and the side.

In addition to households, the project also offers improved stoves to bakeries, restaurants and school kitchens. These stoves can save up to 80 percent of firewood.

A strategy to snowball the country

Changing cooking habits is not easy. Offering only technology is not enough. It needs a strategy that helps distributing stoves to a critical mass of people.
Experience has shown that as soon as more than 50 percent of a village population have been reached, improved stoves will become a must-have for the people.

To get to this point, the project follows a pyramid strategy, starting at the NGO level. The NGO coordinators are trained first, after this, they in turn organize the training of at least 3 stove builders for every village. These artisans learn how to build stoves but also how to successfully market them.

Along the way, NGO coordinators accompany their work. In order to guarantee quality standards, the project provides advice and supervision. At the same time, a monitoring system prevents mistakes from trickling down. This new approach has shown a very fast scaling-up rate. Since the project started at the end of 2004, an ever-increasing number of highly-skilled stove artisans have been trained. They are the workforce that will now snowball the country.