

Letter from the Secretariat

February 2005

ASIA REGIONAL COOKSTOVE PROGRAM



Dear Colleagues,

We bring you updates of various activities being carried out by ARECOP network from the end 2004 to the beginning of 2005.

The development of pottery ICS diffusion in the Philippines has been particularly vibrant with different ways actors initiate the drawing together of resources, production and promotion. ICS National Network of Philippines in collaboration with various institutions has also been carrying out a research focusing on energy policy with respect to the livelihood of urban poor. In Indonesia, we report on the initiation of National Network on Gender and Energy. Interesting experience has also been shared by our Cambodian colleagues on the progress of mud-ICS diffusion carried out at various locations in the country. We are also putting together news of activities and progress of ICS network in Nepal, i.e. the network's research initiatives, its student's support program and the expansion of ICS Network in the country. Lastly the edition also posts brief news on coordination and awareness raising events conducted by the ICS Network of Bangladesh.

Cambodia



Cambodian Center for Study & Development in Agriculture (CEDAC) has been introducing household owner-built ICS (Baby Samaki and Baphnom) to many communities in various parts of the country. Wood Energy Network of Cambodia has been supporting CEDAC, in terms of technical supports as well as small initiative fund for pilot implementation of ICS dissemination.

By December 2004, around 300 Baphnom and 50 Baby Samaki stoves have been constructed, and about 300 households have been using the ICS. Realizing a large demand of other communities for improved cookstove, and based on the good adoption of Baby Samaki and Baphnom stove by the users in ILFARM area, CEDAC have integrated ICS into its 3 other CEDAC's sustainable agriculture projects. Totally, the CEDAC's ICS programme covers 161 villages in 4 provinces. CEDAC is going to introduce the two types of ICS to other CEDAC's project areas. It was noted that dissemination approaches and quality control on stove construction after training are very important for owner-built ICS

program, in order to ensure the effective and sustainable implementation. Lessons learnt from CEDAC experience have also been shared to others, in particular during the last 2 training courses of WENetCam. WENetCam is now working closely with CEDAC to follow up and document the dissemination process and will probably share the experience with other countries in the near future.

Featured Photo

Training on Pottery for the Production of Modified Anagi and Thai Bucket Stoves organized by TSKI&CODESPA - Ilo-Ilo City, Philippines (Photo by TSKI)



Philippines

Pottery ICS in Philippines

In August 2004 there are two batches of Training on Pottery for the Production of the modified Anagi and Thai bucket stoves in partnership with Taytay sa Kauswagan, Inc (TSKI) Micro-Finance Institution (MFI) and Fundacion CODESPA, an NGO supporting women's livelihood activities in Iloilo City. The conducted skills training has resulted to a wide exposure of the modified Anagi stove to prospective users, distributors and has triggered the increased in the sales of ICS in the Public Market. ICS have also been promoted during Trade Fair in the different commercial malls in Iloilo City. The trade fair was sponsored by the Development Department of TSKI



Potter Turned Entrepreneur

Mr. Reiner Roa, a former trainee of APPROTECH Asia (AA) training in 2000, initially received support from AA and ARECOP for an entrepreneurial project as part of the ICS network program's component on sustaining local initiatives. From being a laborer/potter in a commercial pottery shop he was encouraged to start his own entrepreneurial activities. The seed capital provided was to initiate an ICS production set up. He now manages his own pottery shop in Hibao-an Iloilo City.

Recently, Approtech Asia has bridged him to Taytay sa Kauswagan, Inc. (TSKI) for marketing assistance for his pottery products. Many of the employees and loan borrowers of Taytay sa Kauswagan, Inc. have already adopted the improved cookstove.

He further received approval for a financial assistance worth P100,000.00 (one hundred thousands pesos) from TSKI, for the construction of kiln to support the growth of his pottery business. Mr. Roa experienced problems to meet the increasing demand for improved cookstove from the orders made by Taytay sa Kauswagan, Inc. because he only uses open firing method. The monthly production target for improved cookstove is often hampered by the changes in weather condition in the area. Sometimes Mr. Reiner Roa has to bring the dried stoves to other pottery shop for firing but the distance is far from his pottery shop it requires additional cost for the transport in firing.

Mr. Roa has also become the trainer of the recently held ICS pottery training organized by TSKI and CODESPA and has also availed his ICS production workshop as the venue of the latest potter training in November 2004.

different radio stations (DZRL, DZJC, Bombo Radio and DWFB Radio ng Bayan in the province of Ilocos Norte). The Radio reporters and personalities have also become buyers and users of ICS and the live interviews were supported by testimonies of reporters about advantages of using ICS. Information campaign to the religious congregations in Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte were also tapped for the promotion of ICS.

Research Project - Enabling Urban Poor Livelihood Policy making: Understanding the Role of Energy Services

Implementing Agencies:

APPROTECH Asia, The Non-Formal Education Teachers of the Department of Education, City Schools of the Manila and the Graduate School of the Philippine Normal University

Funding Agencies: University of Twente, The Netherlands and the Department of International Development (DfID) United Kingdom.

The research is part of a series of study being conducted in Asia (Philippines), Africa (Nigeria), and Latin America (Brazil), on energy service policies from the perspective of urban poor livelihood. Objectives of the above research are: (1) to know

Pottery ICS in Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte

Potters trained by Mr. Agustin Cabance in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur and San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte have continuously produced the modified Anagi. However, the potters make use of the coiling method which is slow. The Ilocos potters lag behind in the production of ICS compared to Iloilo City and South Cotabato where the potters use pottery wheel for the production of modified Anagi stoves and modified Thai bucket stoves.

In Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte the ICS Center implemented different promotional strategies such as cooking demonstration using modified Anagi stoves, joining trade fair and a caravan showcase for mature technologies developed by Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU). This caravan is being promoted to the different places during the local festivals. Interviews over the local radio stations were also used to promote and advertise the improved cookstoves. The ICS Center in Ilocos Norte, MMSU was given the free air time to promote ICS through the conduct of live interview and discussion with the

what energy services do micro and small enterprises need; (2) what social networks support the energy needs and supply energy services; (3) the energy policies that support or are needed by the businesses; (4) how the businesses can support the well being and productivity of household members or families and vice versa through the use of clean and affordable energy technologies. Outcomes of the study will be used to recommend policies at the local and national level to assist micro and small businesses to meet challenges and demands of local and global market and for these micro and small enterprises to develop their business's potentialities.

In the Philippines, the research has been conducted in Manila city among food micro-entrepreneurs and in Marikina City among the shoe-making micro-business.

The research is now on its final stage of interpreting the statistical analysis derived from the collected data from the identified household respondents including the statistical analysis from the result of the in-depth interview conducted with selected small and micro-enterprises. By the end of January 2005 the research team prepared the 1st draft of the

research study for critiquing and editing. The Approtech Asia is targeting 1st quarter of 2005 for the approval of the final write-up of the study. The final write-up will be presented by the research team to the stakeholders in the Manila composed of the representatives from the Department of Energy, Department of Environment, Non-Government Organization implementing projects related to energy services.

Indonesia



National Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy Workshop 24-26 January 2004

Energia, the Netherlands based network on gender and sustainable energy has been expanding its network in Asia.

To initiate its program in Indonesia, Energia appointed the Indonesia Stove Network (hosted by Dian Desa Appropriate Technology Group) to organize a consultation workshop involving stakeholders working in various sectors--energy policy, non-profit and commercial energy service providers, energy research institutions, women/gender research institutions. The workshop opens with presentations on renewable energy dissemination projects, gender in energy policy and gender sensitive approach in energy projects; followed by group discussion on issues identification; group discussion on a work plan for the national focal point; appointment of institution in charge of gender and energy national focal point (Gender and Energy Secretariat); and an appointment of members of steering committee for the gender and energy network. Dian Desa was appointed to be the secretariat of the national focal point; while representatives from Pelangi (an environmental NGO), Directorate General of Electricity and Energy Development, Center of Women Study-Gadjah Mada University and a consultant (Ms. Wati Hermawati) associated with Indonesia Institute of Sciences, were appointed as members of the steering committee.

Bangladesh

National Network Meeting (28 Nov. 2004)

Meeting of the National Network on Improved Cookstove Program was held on 28 November 2004 at VERC Training Complex, Anandapur, Savar, Dhaka. A total of 85 representatives from local, national and international NGOs, different Govt. officials and interested individuals attended the meeting. Following were the agendas of the meeting:

Reshuffling of the Executive Committee of the network

- ✍ Impacts of devastating flood on ICS program
- ✍ Strengthening the network

- ✍ Strategy and policy were discussed to implement the program smoothly
- ✍ ICS technology popularization
- ✍ Sharing of ICS activities
- ✍ Network progress
- ✍ Discussion was held on kitchen improvement

Meeting of Executive Committee of National Network on Improved Cookstove Program (26 Nov. 2004)

The meeting of the Executive Committee of National Network on Improved Cookstove Program in Bangladesh was held on 26 November 2004 at VERC Training Complex, Anandapur, Savar, Dhaka. A total of 18 participants from 15 organizations attended the meeting. Mr. Yakub Hossain, Deputy Executive Director of VERC and Country Contact Point of ARECOP chaired the meeting. He briefed the activities of the network. Discussions were also held on sustainability of the program and on ways to popularize ICS activities in greater scale in Bangladesh.

National Seminar on Impact of Biomass Smoke on Health and Technology (27 November 2004)

National Seminar on Impact of Biomass Smoke on Health and Technology was organized at the VERC Training Complex in Anandapur, Savar, Dhaka. A total of 85 participants from local, national and international NGOs and Govt. officials attended the seminar. Md. Yakub Hossain, Deputy Executive Director of VERC, chaired the seminar. A.Z. M Salah Uddin Nagri, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) was present as Chief Guest and Dr. Rokeya Akhter Khanum, Project Director of Institute of Fuel Research & Development (IFRD) was present as a special guest.

Nepal

Expansion and Strengthening of District ICS Networks

District ICS Networks in all the 5 districts have been continued. However, the present situation of conflict is hindering the activity of ICS promotion and dissemination in certain districts such as Ilam in the east and Surkhet in the far west of Nepal to some extent. The district Networks have felt that there is a need to integrate the activities with District Development Committee (DDC). Besides, they have suggested that if Local Partner Organizations (LPOs) that are working for promotion and dissemination of ICS are involved in the District Network, it could lead to efficiency of the program and the Network. In this regard ICS Network is in the process of involving LPOs in consultation with National ICS Program and integrating the activities with DDC from 2005 onwards.

With regard to the efficient activities to be undertaken by district networks, most of them have emphasized in conducting the awareness raising activities such as radio program, street drama etc. Moreover they have realized that

School has been found to be a very effective source for information dissemination and school programs for dissemination of information regarding ICS and Kitchen Mangement should be emphasized. Based on their suggestions few activities have been identified by ICS Network and have been finalized for Dhankuta such as debate and drawing competition for raising awareness among the students and teachers on the importance of ICS and kitchen management, which is going to be initiated since Jan 2005. This initiative will enhance the capacity of the participating students, as they have to explore about ICS and its functions. Besides, the other students will also have an opportunity to know more about ICS through the debate of their fellow students. Besides, documentation of cases on ICS activities would also be undertaken very soon by Dhankuta.

One of the major objectives of the ICS network is to expand the district network in other districts. In this regard Rural Energy Development Program (REDP) has shown interest in coordinating the Network in Baglung. REDP works in collaboration with local government and hence facilitation of the Network by REDP would be very beneficial. Similarly, Child Welfare Scheme Nepal, a Pokhara based NGO indicated interest in coordinating the ICS Network in Pokhara.

Dialogue for Research Activities Initiated

As a start up research activity for the phase III, ICS Network has initiated dialogue with two research institutes for two different research works. One has been initiated with Centre for Energy and Environment (CEE) to undertake the research on “Design and Testing of Mechanical Press for the Production and Commercialization of Beehive Briquettes in Nepal.” The contract will be signed in January 1st week. The time duration for completing this research is 3 months starting from January till March 2005.

Similarly, ICS Network had also initiated further dialogue with Research Centre for Science and Technology (RECAST) to undertake research on “Development of Gasifier Stove for Domestic Use”. In this case, the contract will be signed in January only. The time duration for completing this research is 2 months, which will come to an end by February end. After completing both these research ICS Network, CRT/N in collaboration with those two research institute has decided to undertake the training program to the local fabricators and to disseminate the outcome of that R& D to the target groups and finally to help them in commercializing the Briquetting technology as well as the Gasifier Stove.

Student Support Program

ICS Network in Nepal had supported Mr. Dabal Singh KC a student from Tribhuwan University to undertake an 'Impact and Feasibility Study of ICS' in Chaimale VDC Kathmandu. Mr. KC has successfully completed the research and has submitted the report to his respective faculty in the university as well as to the ICS Network in December 2004. The report is added to the ICS Resource Centre and is made available to any interested individuals and institutions.

At present the students have shown keen interest in doing the research activity in various renewable energy sectors with special focus on design and technical part of ICS. In this regard, ICS Network has decided to support the research student preferably focused on Design and Technical aspect of ICS in the year 2005 rather than who focus on impact study. As a result the student will not only undertake assignment on ICS as a part of their thesis work but the outcome of the research will also be useful for the organization in designing the new models as per the requirement of the concerned districts.

Chulo Wall Newsletter

The first issue of Chulo Wall Newsletter has been published in December by (ICS Network of Nepal). The wall newsletter contains success case study, poem on ICS written by the community people, construction method of chimney and chimney outlet and about the message on kitchen management. The size of the wall newsletter is 20"X 30". 500 copies of the newsletter have been published and have been distributed to the district networks and to the districts of National ICS program.