

Letter from the Secretariat

November 2002

ASIA REGIONAL COOKSTOVE PROGRAM



The Quest for Sustainability : Profiles of Improved Cookstove Program in Asia

The above is a study of improved cookstove programs in Asia which is being coordinated by ARECOP Secretariat. The documentation of cases aims to provide ideas as well as practical knowledge on innovative program strategies and implementation that enhance prospects of sustainable ICS diffusion. It is hoped that such documentation could facilitate exchange of information and ideas and bridge the knowledge gaps, specifically in Asia. Further, the exchange is hoped to improve on going as well as future ICSP's, through adoption and adaptation of ideas from the documented cases.

Objectives of the study and documentation :

- Various ICS program dissemination strategy are documented in the form of case studies that can be used as a reference by other organizations, institutions or individuals who want to start improved cookstove programs or to improve their improve cookstove programs
- Adoption rate of ICS is improved

Cases to be published will provide in depth discussions on how programs have facilitated/created conditions toward sustainable diffusion of ICS. The documented cases will provide clear description on key aspects of program strategies and step by step description on the process of program implementation.

ARECOP welcomes assistance in the identification of cases that could potentially be suitable for the above documentation. Contact ARECOP Secretariat for further queries.

Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2004, December 6-8, 2004, Agra, India

BAQ 2004 is organized by The Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia), a regional multi-sector network of more than 120 organizations, aims to promote better air quality management in Asia. Local and international experts will provide updated information about air quality issues and strategies facing the region and the rest of the world. ARECOP will be jointly represented by the Secretariat, ARECOP partner, Energy Research Institute (India) and Country Contact Points (Nepal and Sri Lanka). During the event, ARECOP Network will put up joint presentation highlighting activities on intervention in indoor air quality improvement carried out by the Network. For more information see <http://www.cleanairnet.org/baq2004>.



Photo : Escort Foundation, Pakistan ICS Program, Finalist of Ashden Award.
Source : Ashden Award Website

Bangladesh : Pilot Project on Methodology for Participatory Assessment

Village Education Resource Center and Institute of Development Affairs will be coordinating a pilot project on Methodology for Participatory Assessment. The Pilot project consists of training of facilitators and application of MPA in the implementation of program and monitoring of outcomes from the pilot. The one year project will start in January 2005.

Indonesia : National Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy

The Indonesia Stove Network supported by Energia, (Netherlands) and UNESCO (Asia Pacific Gender, Science and Technology Forum) is preparing for a gender and energy workshop to be tentatively held in December 2004, in Yogyakarta.

The workshop will have several objectives :

- ✎ Identification of gender and energy 'issues' and programs in Indonesia.
- ✎ Identification of technology option on energy mainly about renewable energy technology in Indonesia
- ✎ Identification of the National Focal Point, which will steer the national networking activities
- ✎ Establishment a national network on gender and sustainable energy

Nepal : Orientation on ICS Policies & Strategies and Sharing of Experiences

Improved Cookstoves (ICS) Network in Nepal coordinated by Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) organized a 1-day workshop on "Orientation on ICS Policies & Strategies and Sharing of Experiences" of various organizations (NGOs/INGOs) implementing ICS programs in collaboration with HMG/N Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEP) and Energy Sector Assistance Program

(ESAP) on September 10, 2004. The workshop was attended by 35 participants representing the Government organizations, NGOs, INGOs and donors as well as key ICS implementers in Nepal.

Improved Cookstove Network in Nepal has been providing a platform for information sharing between organizations involved in ICS promotion and dissemination and advocating and lobbying for ICS related matters. In this regard, the issue of differences in policies and strategies of various organizations in ICS promotion and dissemination and its overall impact on the ICS program has been raised by the network members from time to time during the network meeting. Realizing the enormity of this issue, the workshop was organized with an aim to share the policies and strategies of HMG/N, to share implementation modalities/approaches of ICS programs without direct subsidy and to develop common understanding on 'subsidy less' ICS dissemination with process with special emphasis on mid hill districts. The workshop concluded with the need to synchronize the policy and implementation strategy of various organizations and with the experience gained from the National ICS Program and of the other organizations AEPC agreed to modify the policies to better address the issue of ICS dissemination to ensure sustainability of ICS dissemination in future.

Pakistan : Escort Foundation Stove Program Finalist of Ashden Awards

Escorts Foundation, a Lahore based NGO in Pakistan was awarded Finalists of Ashden Awards. Ashden is a UK based Foundation granting awards to selected projects on renewable energy initiatives. The simplicity of the stove together with involvement on the community through training sessions and workshops, has meant that there has been a take up rate of 70% in the 56 villages where the stove has been introduced. To date the Foundation has installed 11578 stoves in the communities surrounding the Changa Manga Forest. Future plans include introducing the stove technology in the remaining 24 villages surrounding the Change Manga Forest as well as establishing a Fuel-Efficient Stove Resource Centre in order to facilitate the widespread dissemination of the technology on a national level. Award money will contribute towards these efforts. **(For more information :www.ashdenawards.org)**

International Cooperation : Partnership for Clean Indoor Air (PCIA), USEPA Grants for Projects

In support of the Partnership for Clean Indoor Air (PCIA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) awarded grants to eleven non-profit organizations to implement innovative, community-based programs to reduce indoor air pollution from household energy use.

The pilot projects will demonstrate effective approaches for addressing social and cultural barriers to adopting improved cooking and heating practices, developing local markets for improved technology, meeting design and performance guidance for improved technology, and monitoring reduced exposure. The \$1.3 million funding is being provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the USEPA. These two-year grants will increase the use of clean, reliable, affordable, efficient, and safe home cooking and heating practices that reduce people's exposure to indoor air pollution. Projects in Asia receiving the grants include :

The Nature Conservancy China Program will promote solar water heaters, biogas units, and biomass stoves in northwest Yunnan Province, China. The Nature Conservancy is engaged in protecting sensitive ecological areas throughout the world - many threatened by consumption of forests for cooking and heating.

Institute for Environmental Health & Related Product Safety of the Center for Disease Control will promote improved coal and biomass technology in rural Guizhou and Gansu Provinces of China.

Development Alternatives will promote improved wood burning stoves (and other technologies) in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, India. The PCIA pilot project will involve multi-disciplinary stakeholders in implementing a social marketing campaign to raise awareness, provision of easy access of retail credit to target families and micro-enterprises, setting up micro-enterprises engaged in decentralized production and delivery of improved technologies, linking industrial manufacturers of commercialized technology options and local distributors.

(For more information :www.PCIAonline.org)

International Cooperation : Commercialization and Business Models for Improved Cookstove Diffusion

Appropriate Rural Technology (Maharashtra, India) supported by the Shell Foundation is carrying a project that aims to create a workable model for identifying and commercialising biomass energy technologies. The model is hoped to be replicable in other states of India and in other developing countries in Asia. The project will create at least 100 local micro-enterprises dealing with improved biomass fuels and cooking devices. Another project, supported by Shell Foundation and is now being carried out by Crestar Capital Private Ltd is complementary to the above commercialisation project. The project is carrying out a study of production and marketing infrastructure to cater to the demand of improved cookstoves, based on ICS/biomass energy technologies commercialization projects in Maharashtra and Bundelkhand regions. Outcomes of the project also includes recommendations on the promotion of financially viable enterprises to meet the demand.

(For more information :www.shellfoundation.org)