

# Letter from the Secretariat

May 2001

ASIA REGIONAL COOKSTOVE PROGRAM



**d**ear colleagues,

For this edition of LfS, we managed to catch glimpses of ICS activities in Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines; in addition to an update on the activities at ARECOP secretariat.

## At the Secretariat

We have been working on the guideline for participatory monitoring and evaluation for improved cookstove program with the assistance of a Sri Lankan expert, Mr. Karunatissa. A draft is now under review and will be circulated to ARECOP Country Contact Points for comments.

Aryanto Sujarwo, ARECOP's program officer was involved as a trainer in the Sri Lanka and Indonesia ICS training. Program manager, Christina also co-trained and supervised the Sri Lanka national training.

ARECOP is now collaborating with the **Vietnam Energy Conservation Program (VECP)** on producing an ICS program needs assessment guideline. VECP has initiated a working group to develop innovative ICS programs in Vietnam.

## Networking

### Nepal

Research and development activities on "Stove Improvement for Agro-Processing and Micro Enterprise Development" has been initiated by the **Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology (RECAST)**. The effort is

being jointly supported by **Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) Nepal** and **Centre for Rural Technology (CRT) Nepal**.

District ICS networks have also been established in Kavre district, with **Rural Community Development Society (RUCODES)** as the coordinator; and in Dang district, coordinated by **Human Welfare and Environment Protection Centre (HWEP)**.

A folk song competition was organized by **CRT/N** in the promotion of improved stoves in Palpa District. **Danida, Energy Sector Assistance Program** and **Alternate Energy Promotion Centre** lent their supports in the event.

At the request of **Community Health Initiative (CHI)** Project, supported by **Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation**, CRT/N conducted ICS Program Assessment, which had already been completed in February 2001. Assessment was conducted on the relevance of health education program in ICS promotion, the quality of ICS models disseminated and promotional approach; with the aim to provide recommendations for future course of actions. The assessment found that ICS program has created substantial awareness on the importance of ICS in reducing health risks and in reducing fuel consumption.

As part of ICS skills dissemination, CRT/N has also planned a Training of Trainers to be conducted in the near future, possibly in June or July.

## **Indonesia**

**The Indonesian Stove Network (Jaringan Kerja Tungku Indonesia-JKTI)** organized the second national training on improved stoves selection and dissemination, from May 10th-21st. The training was part of an ongoing effort in capacity building, especially for stove dissemination in areas which has not received training: in North Sumatra, Jember (East Java), Poerworejo and Poerwakerta (Central Java) and North East Sulawesi. Participants felt that the training offered them useful knowledge, not only in ICS technical knowledge and ICS dissemination, but also in methods to carry out developmental programs, which could be applied in other sectors. This is particularly so, since ARECOP has included a more focused component on "Program Planning" which consists of Logical Framework Analysis and Objective Oriented Program Planning.

**HAMIM Foundation**, based in Jember, East Java, has also been cooperating with the **JKTI**, in improved stoves development for palm sugar producers. The action was to diversify fuels and improved stoves used in palm sugar production, surrounding the Meru Betiri National Park.

**JKTI** has also supported **Sapa Persada Indonesia (SPI)** in the development of improvement of palm sugar stove in Poerworejo (Central Java). To date, needs assessments have been carried out in the two areas.

## **Bangladesh**

Representatives from International and local NGOs, GO and academia attended the **Workshop Report on Sharing Experience and Popularizing Fuel Efficient Stove**, held on March 17th, organized by **Village Education Resource Centre (VERC) Bangladesh**. The workshop discussed limitations of traditional cookstoves, problems and potentialities related to ICS with a focus on health and ways to raise awareness on ICS. The meeting was concluded with the establishment of 17 member national committee on ICS, headed by **VERC**, which will manage ICS networking.

## **Sri Lanka**

The first Sri Lankan national training on ICS selection and dissemination, organized by **Integrated Development Association**, was held from the 24<sup>th</sup> April-4<sup>th</sup> May, and involved seventeen Sri Lankan participants from ICS district focal points. One participant from **Population Development International (PDI) Vietnam** participated in this training. ARECOP had supported Mr. Du Doc Khoi of **PDI** in the training as part of our ongoing commitment in regional capacity building (See: March edition of LfS featured some of PDI's activities in ICS).



## **Philippine**

ARECOP will be lending its supports on skills transfer in the production of improved pottery stoves, upon request by our Philippines Country Contact Point, the **APPROTech Asia**. A training for potters will be held in the Philippines from 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> of June, 2001. ARECOP will be sending a technical expert, Aryanto Sujarwo, along with an Indonesian pottery expert, Ahmad.

**Resource Efficient Agricultural Production (REAP) Canada** is presently involved in developing household stoves for rice hull and other stove residues in the Western Visayas of the Philippines. REAP has made improvements to the Lo-Trau rice hull cooker by improving stability and improving combustion. They are asking for assistance in managing surface fuelbed fires, which makes the stove smok. They can be reached at: **Roger Samson/ Director of International Programs, Resource Efficient Agricultural Production-Canada/ Box 125 Ste Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, Canada H9X 3V9/ Tel (1-514) 398-7743/ Fax (1-514) 398-7972/ email : reap@interlink.net/ URL: www.reap.ca.**

## **Resources**

For those of you who are interested to know further about ICS activities in other countries, here is a list of resources that you can obtain.

The **Integrated Development Association (IDEA)**, Sri Lanka regularly published *Adahasa*, which among its contents, review ICS actions in Sri Lanka. **IDEA** is also preparing a newsletter, specially devoted to ICS issues.

We have been receiving updates on ICS news from Nepal through **ICS Dispatch**, a quarterly newsletter produced by **CRT/Nepal**. In addition **CRT/N** also publishes newsletter in Nepalese.

To date, the Indonesian Stove Network has produced 3 editions of **ASAP**, a quarterly magazine written in Indonesian. The network has also launched a web page, which features information on ICS programs in Indonesia ([www.tungku.or.id](http://www.tungku.or.id)).

**WeNetCam**, Cambodia publishes a quarterly **Letter from the Secretariat**, written in English, and which features news on ICS actions in the country.

**ARECOP's** quarterly magazine, **Glow's** June edition will feature loose biomass fuel utilisation. Since the March edition, the magazine has been published with a theme; the first thematic edition focused on "Institutional and Small Industrial Stoves". The September thematic issue will feature "Gender in ICS"; followed by the December edition focusing on Indigenous Knowledge in ICS.

We welcome contributions for **Glow**, as it is one of the means for the **ARECOP** network to share experiences and ideas in ICS and related issues. The secretariat accepts both thematic as well as non-thematic articles.



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