

EFFORTS TO SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY COOKING TECHNOLOGIES IN UGANDA ARE SO WANTING

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In Uganda, approximately only 10%¹ of the total population has adopted clean cooking energy. *Clean cooking refer to the use of biogas, liquefied petroleum gas, electricity, and natural gas for cooking – these are the cleanest solutions* able to reduce household air pollution to the level of WHO guidelines for health. They are ideal bridge fuels to non-intermittent, fully *renewable energy* options for household *energy* use. The use of the above energy mix can reduce on a million number of trees that are cut every day to provide charcoal and firewood hence a reduction on Green House Gas Emission that contribute to climate change.

The adoption of clean cooking technology has not been fully embraced in peri- urban but also rural areas due to high upfront costs that are involved for instance in solar home systems, biogas, Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and electricity. For instance a unit of electricity costs close to shs1000 and a LPG 12kg refilling costs close shs130,000. This hinders majority who are low income earners from accessing alternative clean cooking sources. It is evident in many trading centers that men, women and youths making chapati, frying chips, roasting meat and many other similar small and medium business use inefficient charcoal stoves for cooking which use a lot of charcoal. This has greatly led to the high increase in demand for charcoal in these centres since people need to operate daily and require a lot of charcoal which in return emit dangerous fumes resulting into respiratory diseases such as asthma, lung cancer and many others.

In order to address the above challenges affecting the adoption of clean cooking there is need for policies that will promote the use of clean energy for cooking through, passing bye laws at local levels that support the promotion of use of alternative clean energy sources and regulating the over usage of charcoal.

At national level, Ministry of Energy and Mineral development should make a deliberate move to reduce the unit cost of electricity such that even the low income person can have access to alternative clean energy sources.

There is need for promotion of the use of biogas, liquefied petroleum gas, electricity, and natural gas for cooking.

The use of environmental carbon credits can also be used as another solution where people who use a lot of bio-mass (firewood and charcoal) are tasked to plant more trees as a replacement to the environmental degradation caused in order to curb down the effects of environmental degradation.

¹ (The K4D research helpdesk report titled (“Clean” Cooking Energy in Uganda – technologies, impacts, and key barriers and enablers to market acceleration, August 2017)

Civil society organisations including Ages considered (ACO), should continue sensitizing Communities on adoption of clean energy solutions and reduce dependence on bio-mass. They can also offer trainings and advise on how communities can access carbon credit from financial institutions such as, The Uganda Energy Credit Capitalisation Company (UECCC) which is currently implementing a pilot Biogas Financing Programme.

Private Funding opportunities in renewable energy sector majorly focus on supporting clean lighting rather than clean cooking, which has lowered the rate of its adoption. For example: Financial institutions such as Pride Microfinance, Centenary Bank, Finance Trust Bank, Barclays Bank Uganda, Stanbic Bank Uganda, Finance Trust Bank, and Postbank Uganda are providing for working capital loans to Renewable Energy Technologies service providers like solar companies with credit support from UECCC, for solar systems acquisition only. As highlighted in a study by Environmental Alert titled, 'Unlocking Financing and Investments for Clean and Renewable Energy Access in Uganda (a case study of the Albertine region).'

A significant change due to ACO intervention has been noticed in targeted areas of Mende subcounty, Wakiso district where a project on promotion of clean energy alternatives in small scale businesses and households is being piloted.