

GHANA SEforALL NEWS

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- ◆ About 80 bioenergy experts and stakeholders participated in the 5th Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) Bioenergy Week event in Accra

PROGRESS ON HIGH IMPACT PRIORITY AREAS

PROMOTE PRODUCTIVE USES OF ENERGY (PUE)

* **SEforALL Secretariat Intensify Productive Use of Energy Campaign in Ghana**

The Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) Secretariat under the Energy Commission has intensified its awareness campaign on Productive Uses of Energy (PUE) in the country. Two workshops were held in May 2017 in Ho and Ejisu for the Volta and Ashanti Regions, respectively, to educate key stakeholders on past and present PUE interventions in the country and the benefits. A total of 78 representatives from Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs); Non-Governmental Organisations; Financial Institutions; Private Energy Service Providers; and Academia and Research Institutions participated in the workshops.

Making a remark at the workshop, the Ag. Director of Renewable Energy Directorate at the Energy Commission, Mr. Kwabena A. Otu-Danquah identified lack of PUE awareness among various key stakeholders such as MMDAs and the Private Sector as a major drawback to the effective promotion of PUE under the Sustainable Energy for All Action Agenda for Ghana. He said it is in this context that the workshops were being organised to create the needed awareness among key stakeholders.

He chronicled the history of rural electrification scheme since its inception in 1989 to date with focus on the policy target of extending electricity to all part of the country within a thirty-year

GHANA SEforALL SECRETARIAT

GHANA'S SEforALL ACTION AGENDA SEEKS TO:

- > Promote Productive Uses of Energy
- > Improve Access to Improved Cookstove
- > Improve Access to LPG for Cooking
- > Provide Access to Electricity for Remote Communities using Off-Grid Systems

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period from 1990 to 2020. Mr. Otu-Danquah said the main driver for the national electrification programme is poverty reduction through the productive use of electricity to create jobs and earn income. He further outlined some significant achievements in the energy sector including a national electrification access of 82% and installation of five (5) renewable energy mini-grids in lake-side and island communities that are not economically feasible to connect to the national grid. He further stated that government have secured funding to install 55 mini-grids and deploy stand-alone solar systems in off-grid communities by 2020 under the Scaling-up Renewable Energy Programme (SREP) at an estimated cost of US\$83 million.



Participants at the PUE workshop in Ho (above) and Ejisu (below)



Experiences on PUE interventions being implemented, successes and challenges were shared by agro-business entrepreneurs, and researchers. Representatives from selected financial institutions in the host regions were also there to educate participants on financing opportunities available for PUE interventions, requirements and how to make business proposals bankable.

During the discussion sessions, issues like

high interest rate, lack of access to land for PUE initiatives and high electricity tariff were identified by the participants as factors that hinder their involvement in PUE interventions. Recommendations made include: the MMDA's securing dedicated lands for PUE initiatives and giving such lands to investors as equity; review of electricity tariff by the Government to make it attract to businesses; Government securing low interest rate and lending to financial institutions at an affordable rate; etc.



Participants at the workshop in Ejisu being shown how a solar-hybrid dryer works by PENS FoodBank

The workshops were used to solicit for more information on on-going PUE interventions in the regions to identify opportunities for collaboration under the SEforALL initiative.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO IMPROVED COOKSTOVES

* Strategic Support to the Clean Cooking Sector in Ghana Project

The Dutch Enterprise Development Agency (RVD) in partnership with the German Development Corporation (GIZ) through the Energising Development (EnDev) Programme is providing support to actors engaged in developing the clean cooking market to create an enabling environment for the sector in Ghana.

The specific objectives of the project are to:

- ◆ Strengthen GHACCO's administration and

operations;

- ◆ Diversify GHACCO's membership and scope to include LPG and rural woodstoves, with the latter to be the focus of an additional market development programme; and
- ◆ Develop a Market Innovation Facility with strong linkages to key sector actors whose combined capacity can greatly benefit GHACCO members and the sector as a whole.

The successful implementation of this project is expected to make GHACCO: operationally and financially sustainable; more visible and influential in the cookstoves and fuels sector; membership more diversified to include LPG stakeholders; and have wider and more effective regional coverage and engagement; among others.

The project was launched in Accra on 7th April 2017 and was attended by about 100 representatives from government ministries and agencies, private sector, academia and research institutions, the donor community, non-governmental organisations, civil society, and the media.



Some key public and private sector actors at the launch of the project (Photo credit: Alex Donyinah, SNV)

The launch was graced by the Global Coordinator of SNV's Energy Sector, Mr. Wim Van Nes. In his remarks, Mr. Van Nes reiterated the need to find sustainable home-grown solutions to address cooking issues in Ghana: "I believe the only way it can

work for Ghana is a market based solution so people pay for what they use for clean cooking. We need to offer solutions by Ghana for Ghana and in Ghana”.



Mr. Wim Van Nes (Photo credit: Alex Donyinah, SNV)

The project is being implemented by SNV Netherlands Development Organisation and the Ghana Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and Fuels (GHACCO). It is a one and half year project with a budget of €435,000.

*** Abibiman Foundation Promotes the use of Mewar Angithi, an Implant to Improve the Efficiency of Traditional Mud Stove**

Mewar Angithi is a metal implant developed by a group of five researchers from The University of Iowa, USA; and Climate Healers during a field research conducted in Rajasthan, India in late 2014 as a low-cost and low-tech device that improves the efficiency of traditional woodstoves. The device was tested by the Cookstove Testing Centre at the Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India and was reported to reduce wood usage by 63% and decrease soot or smoke produced by 89%.

The Mewar Angithi implant has been tested in rural India, Kenya and now Ghana to assess its suitability and potential to be promoted massively for adoption by rural woodstove users.

The field research in Ghana was done by

Abibiman Foundation, in 2015, in collaboration with The University of Iowa, USA. During the research, three stoves were tested: the traditional mud stove without the implant, the mud stove with the implant and the Envirofit improved cookstove. The use of the Mewar Angithi implant was reported to have decreased the amount of smoke produced by the traditional mud stove, provided a 34% reduction in firewood consumed and 17% reduction in cooking time. The Mewar Angithi intervention was adjudged the most preferred by the beneficiaries.



The Mewar Angithi implant (Photo credit: Kenneth Amoateng, Abibiman Foundation)

The Abibiman Foundation, with support from Climate Healers and The University of Iowa, has replicated and tested prototypes of the implant in Ghana using locally sourced materials. Field trials were performed over a period of six months and good results were consistently obtained.

“I would like to thank you for bringing that thing [Mewar Angithi]. Previously, I used a lot of firewood for cooking but now it has reduced. Also, there is extremely less smoke and I’m able to stay in the kitchen throughout the cooking period” - Agnes Nartey, a beneficiary and resident of Lakpleku, a community in the Greater Accra region of Ghana.

Currently, Abibiman Foundation has deployed 250 of the Mewar Angithi implants in Vitting, Northern Region; Sukuom, Eastern Region; Achiasse and Barekese, Ashanti Region;



The Mewar Angithi implant in a traditional mud stove (Photo credit: Kenneth Amoateng, Abibiman Foundation)

Lakpleku Djinahor, Greater Accra Region; and Peki Adzokoe, Volta Region.

The Foundation will be launching a crowdfunding campaign this July to raise funds to manufacture more implants for 100,000 households in Ghana.

A short video on this initiative is available on: <https://youtu.be/meyTrGwOHVg>

IMPROVE ACCESS TO LPG

Efforts are still being made to increase the penetration and adoption of LPG for cooking in low access areas. In this second quarter of 2017, 3,000 households in the Effutu, Gomoa West and Mfantseman Districts of the Central Region were provided with LPG cylinders, stoves and accessories under the Ministry of



Some beneficiaries of the Rural LPG Promotion Programme (Photo credit: Martha Abdulai, Kintampo Health Research Centre)

Energy's Rural LPG Promotion Programme.

PROVIDE ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY FOR REMOTE COMMUNITIES USING OFF-GRID SYSTEMS

The Government's Solar Lantern Promotion Programme (SLAPP) is still on-going. A total of 78,802 solar lanterns have been disseminated to date to provide clean lighting in off-grid homes. The subsidy scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Energy.

PROFILE OF ABIBIMAN FOUNDATION

Abibiman Foundation is a non-profit, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that has actively spearheaded several environmental and climate change initiatives in Ghana. The essential thrust of the Foundation is to enhance sustainable livelihoods of communities in Ghana by integrating environmental, social and economic objectives.

Founded in 2000, Abibiman Foundation has impacted the lives of millions of Ghanaians through its projects and initiatives on environmental protection, energy access, education, and human rights, as well as contributed to national policies in the aforementioned areas.

In 2014, the Foundation collaborated with SNV to extensively research on the fish smoking value chain in Tema-New Town (a predominantly fishing community), and assisted to build improved fish-smoking stoves for fishmongers. Abibiman also led the recent campaign against Government of Ghana's option to build a coal-fired power plant in Ghana. Through Abibiman's caravan project on climate justice and poverty

hearing, the Foundation was able to mobilise over 50,000 signatures from various stakeholders (opinion leaders, women, children, students, youths, farmers and citizens whose voices needed to be heard on the impact of climate change on their livelihoods) in eight (8) out of 10 regions in Ghana. Abibiman has also established Green-Life Clubs in basic schools to create awareness and educate students on energy, climate change and environmental issues.

Abibiman Foundation continues to be engaged as a non-profit stakeholder by the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation; Ministry of Energy; the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as several other national and international institutions in Ghana, including the United Nations. The Foundation collaborates with a network of NGOs in Ghana to achieve the needed impacts in communities. It facilitated the formation of African Youth Initiative on Climate Change in Ghana (AYICC), and currently serves on the Board of GHACCO.

It is an accredited member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), International Society of Environmental and Rural Development Council (ISERD), United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), Adaptation Fund (AF NGO network), GHACCO, Global Environment Facility (GEF NGO), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Habitat International Coalition, Climate Action Network (CAN), CBD Alliance, Global Soil Partnership (GSP of the FAO), Centre for Youth Development Advocacy (CYDA), Coalition of NGOs Associated with the United Nations DPI and ECOSOC.

For more information about Abibiman Foundation, please visit: www.abibimanfoundation.org or contact Kenneth Nana Amoateng via ken@abibimanfoundation.org

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BUSINESSES IN GHANA

GHANA CLIMATE INNOVATION CENTRE PROVIDES INCUBATOR SUPPORT TO ENERGY ENTREPRENEURS

The Ghana Climate Innovation Centre (GCIC) at the Ashesi University College has enrolled 11 entrepreneurs into its business incubator programme. Under this programme, the selected entrepreneurs will receive business advisory and support facilities which includes:

- ◆ use of office space and facilities at the Centre;
- ◆ business skills training and mentoring by a select group of established business leaders and social entrepreneurs;
- ◆ grants to implement and assess viability of business concept;
- ◆ technical assistance to access available funding;
- ◆ support services to access market to facilitate growth;
- ◆ technical assistance with technology and product development; and
- ◆ policy advocacy & regulatory support services

The entrepreneurs are top management personnel and or founders of waste-to-energy businesses, solar installation and maintenance companies, cooking fuel (charcoal and briquettes) producers; biomass-to-energy company and a bamboo bike producer. These 11 entrepreneurs (four women and seven

men) are the first set of over 100 climate innovation businesses to be supported by the Centre by 2020.

The GCIC is part of the World Bank's Climate Technology Programme. The Centre is supported by the governments of Denmark and the Netherlands and is managed by a consortium led by the Ashesi University College in partnership with Ernst & Young, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, and the United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa. Its main objective is to support Ghanaian entrepreneurs and ventures involved in the areas of energy efficiency, domestic waste management, solar energy, water supply management and purification, and climate smart agriculture to develop profitable and locally-appropriate solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

For more information about the GCIC, go to: www.ghanacic.org

SEforALL RELATED EVENT HELD IN GHANA

5TH ECOWAS-GBEP BIOENERGY WEEK HELD IN ACCRA

The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) collaborated with the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) to organise the 5th GBEP Bioenergy Week in Accra from 22-24 June 2017. The theme for the event was "Addressing food and energy security through sustainable biomass value chains". The event provided opportunity for experts from ECOWAS Member States and around the globe to share their knowledge and experience in sustainable bioenergy service delivery for increased energy access

and sustained food security. Specifically, the event was used to:

- ◆ Discuss the state of the ECOWAS Bioenergy situation and efforts being made to improve energy access;
- ◆ Discuss the ECOWAS Bioenergy Policy and its role and benefits in achieving the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Goals while enhancing food security;
- ◆ Discuss successful bioenergy programmes and projects for cooking, heating and power generation that could be replicated across the ECOWAS region; and
- ◆ Raise awareness on available financial instruments in the region and beyond and how they can be accessed.

Participants had the opportunity to visit a 100kW waste-to-energy plant by Safi Sana at Ashaiman; and a liquid waste treatment facility in Accra.



The Safi Sana waste-to-energy plant (Photo credit: Lovans Owusu-Takyi)

The event was attended by about 80 bioenergy policy experts and advocates, businesses, development partners, financial institutions, researchers and the civil society.

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Link to the Ghana SEforALL Action Plan: <http://energycom.gov.gh/files/SE4ALL-GHANA%20ACTION%20PLAN.pdf>



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