



DEVELOPING RADIO PARTNERS

Focus: Improved Cook Stoves

Energy requirements are one of the main drivers of climate change. In Zambia, charcoal production and fuel wood contribute significantly to the loss of forest carbon and trees important for controlling climate change. The majority of Zambians use charcoal and wood fuel to meet energy requirements for various household and commercial needs. One intervention that is appropriate for Zambia is promoting improved cook stoves.

These can be used both in rural areas where fuel wood is used the most and also in the urban areas where charcoal is used the most. Improved cook stoves key benefits to consumers, over traditional stoves or 3-stone fire place are the more fuel efficient use and reduced amounts of smoke that cause air pollution.

The Weekly for Zambia Information Resource Bulletin

The goals of the Weekly Bulletin are:

- Bring listeners in the project area the latest information on natural resources, the environment and agriculture
- Focus on solutions, what works and what people can do
- Encourage listeners to share both their questions and solutions (African solutions for African problems)
- Raise awareness of issues that need to be discussed to affect public policy.
- Bring the latest solutions and practices that have relevance to this region from around the world
- Identify and link other NGOs working in the region share the project interests and goals
- Give the participating journalists guidance and tips on their reporting on these issues

The Problem: Poor Stoves Contribute to Deforestation

Based on the *Zambian Living Conditions Monitoring Survey (CSO 2010)* the major sources of energy consumed at the household level in Zambia are firewood, charcoal, and electricity. More than half (54%) of all households in Zambia use firewood as their main fuel for cooking while nearly 29% use charcoal and almost 17% use electricity. Fuel wood is mainly used on a three stone fire place in most rural areas

of Zambia and charcoal is mainly used on a traditional mbaula (charcoal brazier). These two methods require a lot more wood and charcoal to produce the necessary energy to cook. The three stone method, common in rural areas, is also known for high air pollution from the smoke exposing the user to the risk of upper respiratory infections. The charcoal brazier uses a lot of charcoal which contributes greatly to deforestation.

Solutions: Activities for Journalists

Improved cook stoves are promoted by the Ministry of Environment under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) a government climate change programme.

Ask listeners if they have heard of these stoves.

Community Market for Conservation (COMACO) is promoting an efficient brazier suitable for rural communities called Total Land Care Rocket Stoves. COMACO is now constructing and distributing more than 50,000 TLC Rocket Stoves to rural farmers in COMACO's operational areas of the Luangwa valley. The stoves are designed to improve the fuel efficiency for cooking, thus saving trees, while also reducing smoke emissions associated with serious health risks. Currently, rural households in the Luangwa Valley use 3-stone open fires for cooking, which contribute to high levels of CO₂ emissions and also pose health risks from breathing in fine particulate matter in wood and woody biomass smoke. Since these TLC Rocket Stoves don't require large diameter firewood, women and children will no longer need to travel long distances in search of firewood.

Ask listeners if they have heard of COMACO.

This organisation is based in Lusaka but operates mainly in the Eastern province of Zambia. The Ministry of Environment is working with them to promote these stoves.

The improved cooking stoves will contribute to reduced demand of wood fuel for cooking in rural areas and is designed like the traditional methods.

Ask the listeners if they have tried using the improved stoves.

Ask listeners to share their experience of using any improved stoves. Did they like the improved stoves? What was it they liked about them? Were there problems with them?

The common three stone stoves used in rural areas causes a lot of air pollution and direct inhalation of smoke by mothers and babies near the fire places.

Household air pollution is the number one risk factor for disease in rural areas and more than 50% of premature deaths among children under five worldwide are due to pneumonia caused by household air pollution.

Promoting the use of improved cook stove will not only benefit households by creating a healthier situation – it will also help create a healthy environment and contribute to the mitigation of climate change.

Useful Links

Information about farming and the environment:
Chief Environment officer, Emphraim Shitima,
email emshitima40@gmail.com

COMACO contact Frank Chisamanga on
0977433625 and fchisamanga@itswild.org

Good source of information: Vincent Ziba, FAO
Zambia, Zambia; Email: vinceziba@yahoo.com.
Phone: 0966-246-924

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Information environmental degradation write to Irene