Project Output

To achieve the envisaged outcomes and impacts, EPGAP will produce the following outputs:

- 600 improved cookstoves installed
- 4 hectors of fuelwood plantation established
- 150 Women groups trained in cost-benefit analysis of their production process and the value chain of their product
- 100 MFIs sensitized so that they are open to financing RE options
- 10 Proposals for resource mobilization for projects resulting from the EPGAP
- 5 Business plans developed
- 30 additional process characterization studies conducted

15 Publications produced and systemic knowledge documents developed

Project Duration

The Energy, Poverty and Gender in Agro Processing (EPGAP) project will be implemented over a two year period from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015.

Our Partners

- Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA)
- Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDA's)
- Ghana Association of Microfinance Companies (GAMC)
- Agro-processing Groups
- Local Capacity Builders (LCB)

SMART DEVELOPMENT WORKS

Project Regions in Ghana

Primarily;

- Northern Region
- Upper East Region
- Upper west Region

Secondary;

- Other relevant regions of Ghana

Project Contact:

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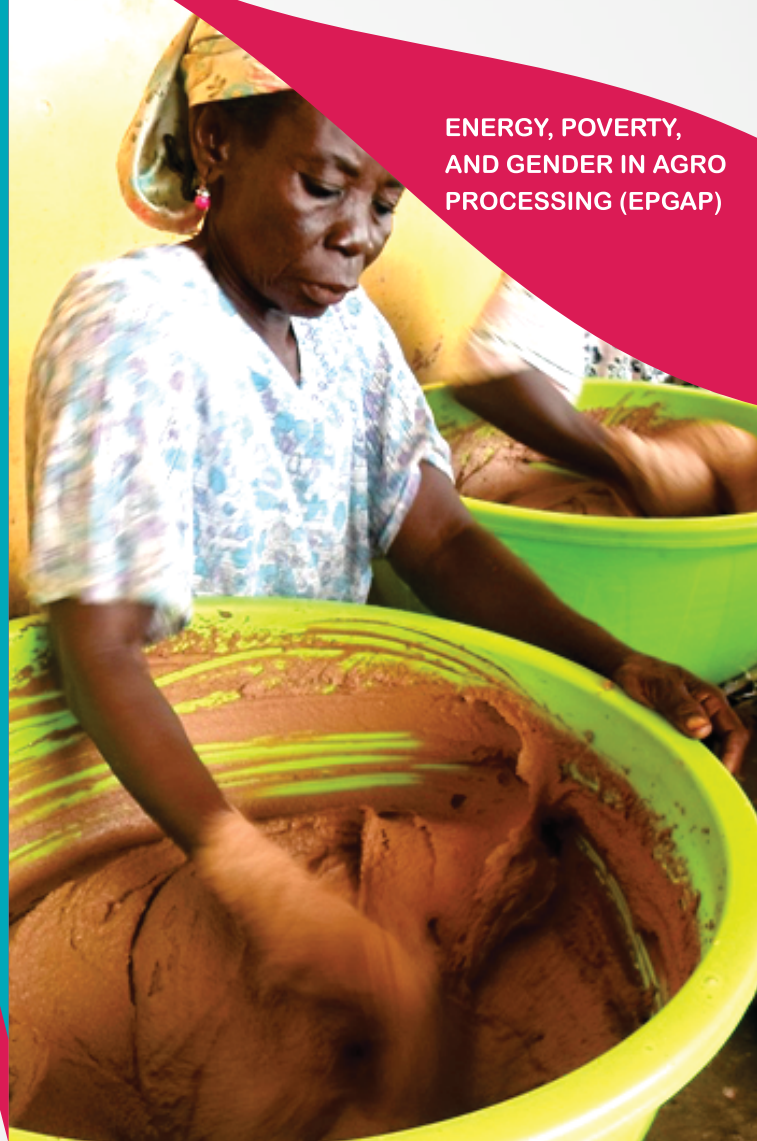
SNV Netherlands Developments Organisations

ENERGY, POVERTY, AND GENDER IN AGRO PROCESSING (EPGAP)



THE NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION–SNV

SNV Netherlands Development Organisation is committed to the reduction of poverty and works to achieve this in line with national poverty reduction strategies. SNV has been active in Ghana since 1992 and currently has offices in Accra, Tamale and Wa. Our role in development is to promote efficient and effective implementation of strategies and programs in the Agricultural, Renewable Energy, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sectors.

Impact Level: SNV believes in contributing to a measurable, lasting and positive change in the lives of the most vulnerable groups such as women, the unemployed youth, and the poor communities

Influence Level: We intervene to bring about the changes in organizations, institutions, service systems, mobilize public will, and influence policies through evidence based advocacy and knowledge networking.

Leverage Level: We embark on partnership development and resource mobilization for community development projects and programmes with the objective of reducing poverty.

THE EPGAP PROJECT

The Energy, Poverty and Gender in Agro Processing (EPGAP) project is a renewable energy intervention aimed at introducing improved cook stoves (ICS) and other renewable energy technologies to small and medium industries involved in agro processing to reduce fuelwood consumption, increase income, and improve the working environment. The project is being implemented in four West African countries; Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali and Niger with Ghana being the lead country. In Ghana, the project include the introduction of improved Pito brewing stoves, improved stoves for Shea butter production, improved stoves for rice parboiling, and the establishment of fuelwood plantation to supply sustainable fuel for these industries.

NEED FOR EPGAP

In West Africa, small and medium scale agriculture processing is dominated by women. Whether it is in Shea butter production, rice parboiling, local beer brewing (called Dolo in Burkina Faso and Pito in Ghana), or vegetable oil production (palm kernel oil, palm oil, peanut oil), these processes are mainly carried out by women who in general, work very hard (using mainly manual labor and traditional tools) under difficult conditions (heat and smoke) for marginal incomes.

It is estimated that exposure to smoke from traditional cookstoves and open fires causes two million premature deaths annually, with women and children particularly affected. Toxic cookstove smoke contributes to a range of chronic illnesses and acute health impacts such as pneumonia, bronchitis, cataracts, lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, and low birth weight.

The World Health Organization estimates that harmful cookstove smoke is the fifth leading cause of death in developing countries and in Ghana causes 16,600 deaths annually.

From 2005 to 2010, Ghana lost 2.19% of forests per year, the highest deforestation rate after Togo and Nigeria. Extraction of wood for fuelwood and charcoal is not the only cause of deforestation, but is a major contributor as fuelwood remains the main fuel used for domestic, institutional cooking and as small scale industrial fuel.

The introduction of clean cookstoves under the EPGAP project will reduce fuelwood consumption and therewith contribute to combating deforestation. This in turn will contribute to protecting the global and local environment. In particular, protecting the local environment will contribute to a higher standard of living. The cost of fuelwood is significant compared to the margins (difference between cost of inputs and price of outputs). This means that reducing the specific fuelwood consumption can substantially increase margins and eventually increase the standard of living of women agro processors.

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Project Impacts:

- To increase income for women involved in agro-processing.
- Improve health of women involved in agro-processing.
- To reduce deforestation.

Project Outcomes:

- Fuelwood consumption reduced.
- Sustainably grown fuelwood produced.
- Improvement options implemented benefitting women.
- Working environment improved benefitting women.
- Women empowered and bargaining position improved.