

SCOPE OF INTERVENTION

To Roll out the Sustainable Bioenergy programme, the following actions are envisaged:

- Information and sensitization campaign;
- Relevant and adequate policy framework development;
- Capacity development for all relevant stakeholders
- Resource assessment and mapping;
- Networking, knowledge management and information sharing;
- Demonstration projects for regional scaling up; and
- Investment and fund mobilization.

DEMONSTRATION/PILOT PROJECTS

Some projects that could be promoted as demonstration/pilot include but not limited to:

1. Residue from increased food production and municipal & agro-industrial residue transformed into energy;
2. Sustainable forest management for increased wood and charcoal supply, including creation of rural wood energy markets;
3. Efficient production of alternative fuels and charcoal and use of improved cookstoves; and
4. Promote the use of alternatives to fuelwood such as biogas, bio-ethanol fuel and stoves, LPG and bio-charcoal.



BENEFITS

1. Increased food and energy security, employment opportunities, increased income levels and reduced poverty, particularly for the rural poor;
2. Reduced drudgery for women and children in the collection and use of fuelwood;
3. Forests preserved and protected and environment enhanced; and
4. Reduced energy imports thereby improving balance of payment.



A Biogas Stove
Source: Biogas Technologies Africa Ltd.



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ECOWAS CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

ECOWAS BIOENERGY PROGRAMME



TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

ECOWAS BIOENERGY PROGRAMME



Firewood collection: drudgery for women and children
Source: RPTES, World Bank

In the recent past, global market demand for biofuels has often resulted in its unsustainable production in West Africa, amongst other regions, to meet this increasing need and sometimes leading to land and water conflicts.

On the basis of the fore-going, ECOWAS took the initiative to promote modern Bioenergy in the region.



Source: ECREEE

SHARE OF TRADITIONAL BIOMASS
IN THE TOTAL ECOWAS ENERGY MIX

INTRODUCTION

The energy system of West Africa is characterized by low access rates, energy insecurity, and climate change mitigation and adaptation challenges. Principal among the energy challenges are the widespread and unsustainable utilization of traditional biomass or Fuelwood (wood resources for firewood and charcoal) for cooking and heating. Recent data show that almost 80% of the total energy consumption of the region comes from the traditional use of biomass. In addition, over 90% of the population uses wood and charcoal for domestic cooking.

The region's over-dependence on natural forest resources is among the drivers for deforestation, desertification and increased GHG emissions. The unsustainable use of wood resources is damaging to public health and reduces the time available for women and children to pursue socio-economic activities.

THE AIM

The aim of the Bioenergy Programme is to enhance sustainable Bioenergy production and use in the Region that promotes food security, safeguards health and the environment thereby contributing to SE4ALL.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives are to:

- Promote the transition from the traditional use of biomass towards an efficient, sustainable production and use of modern Bioenergy;
- Broaden regional dialogue and peer-to-peer learning to support the development of Bioenergy strategies in the ECOWAS member states;

- Sensitize and share experiences on modern sustainable Bioenergy production that also promotes food security; and
- Create a vibrant and sustainable modern bioenergy sector that promotes economic growth, rural development, and poverty alleviation.

The Regional Bioenergy Programme would broaden and accelerate the development and deployment of sustainable modern Bioenergy that will:

- Enable and promote domestic and foreign investments in helping address energy poverty prevailing in the region both in rural and peri-urban populations, without compromising food security and the environment; and



Sustainable Forest Management for Modern Bioenergy access
Source: Ministry of Energy, Ghana

- Give consideration to local production of components/devices and fuels to spur local socio-economic development through creation of added value, employment, alongside food and energy security.

STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

The implementation of the Regional Bioenergy Programme would be premised on the following key components:

1. Resource Assessment and Planning;
2. Policy and Strategy development;
3. Information and Knowledge sharing;
4. Capacity building and technology transfer; and
5. Financing mechanisms and resource mobilization.

PARTNERS

