



ECOWAS Initiative on Efficient, Affordable and Sustainable Cooking



In brief: Initiative on Safe, Sustainable and Affordable Cooking

Cooking is a vital need, since most of our nutrition comes from cooked food. Nevertheless, most West African households cook with wood or charcoal, on open fires or inefficient stoves, that **are unsafe**, exposing women and children to unhealthy smoke, and causing serious respiratory diseases. Furthermore, women may be exposed to danger when they have to go out to collect wood for cooking.

Cooking with wood or charcoal on a 3-stone or inefficient stove is **costly**. Many households spend as much on fuel for cooking as they do on food. Where sustainable forest management is lacking, the traditional cooking methods are often **unsustainable**, since uncontrolled cutting of wood for fuel can be a link in the chain of land degradation and deforestation. Finally, traditional cooking methods **are an obstacle to social and economic progress for women**, since women and girls who must collect wood are excluded from schooling or revenue generating activities.

The ECOWAS Initiative on Safe, Sustainable and Affordable Cooking aims to insure that by 2030, the entire ECOWAS population have access to efficient, sustainable and modern cooking fuels and devices.

Achieving safe and affordable cooking

In West Africa, the following avenues have shown promise for providing safe, sustainable and affordable cooking:

- ❖ improving the efficiency and sustainability of the traditional wood and charcoal cooking energy value chain through sustainable forest management, improved charcoal conversion, and clean, high efficiency stoves.
- ❖ strengthen local economies through increased production of biomass fuels and stoves by scaling-up proven business models
- ❖ developing new biomass energy cooking value chains. This includes pellets, briquettes, biogas, as well as liquid fuels, such as ethanol, produced from agricultural or forestry wastes.
- ❖ promoting LPG fuel and stoves. LPG cooking is clean and highly efficient.



ECREEE

www.ecreee.org



Institutional Structure

The cooking initiative is an ECREEE-led programme that is jointly implemented with several technical partners, including Austrian Energy Agency (AEA), ETC-ENERGIA, GACC, GERES, GIZ, and ICEED.

Work Programme

The primary focus of the initiative will be on increasing the efficiency and sustainability of biomass based cooking energy and introducing modern biofuels such as ethanol, biogas and briquettes. The initiative, as part of the Action Plan of the ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Policy, will focus on **policies, capacity building, awareness raising and financing mechanisms**. Actions will be carried out in a coordinated manner, at the regional and national level, taking into consideration the specific conditions of each country.

The **Regional Components** of the initiative are the following:

Energy efficiency policies and tools

Building on international work, the initiative will aid the region's countries in **adopting standards** on efficiency and on emissions for cooking fuels and cooking devices

Capacity building

The Initiative will support a network for the **exchange of best practices** on technologies, techniques and approaches amongst stakeholders at international, regional and national levels. The Initiative will work with selected **testing and research centres** with regional outreach, notably to create regional capacity to carry out essential **research** on fuel production and supply, and to certify the performance of improved stoves.

The **National Components** of the initiative will include the following:

Energy efficiency policies and tools

Country evaluations will be carried out to determine the nationally appropriate actions for cooking energy. The initiative will support the mobilisation of funds.

Capacity building

Training will be carried out to **support national action plans**, addressing human capacity bottlenecks in cooking fuel supply as well as market introduction and usage of improved cooking devices.

Awareness raising

The awareness raising activities will focus the uses and benefits of using efficient, alternative and modern cooking fuels and devices for both domestic and productive sectors.

Financing mechanisms

The Initiative will support the mobilisation of micro-finance and carbon finance for scaling-up successful business models.

