



Concept note

Online Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Introduction to Bioethanol for Clean Cooking

Date: 9-10 December 2020

**The Capacity Building Activity will enhance the
implementation of ECOWAS Bioenergy Policy**





1. Background

One thing that everyone around the world shares, regardless of where they live, is the activity of cooking. However, not everyone is afforded the same cooking experience; over 4 billion people globally still cook with solid or dirty fuels, resulting in over 2.3 million deaths annually. This disproportionately affects women and children, who are typically tasked with procuring fuel, as well as cooking over that fuel every day. Not only does this result in major health problems from indoor air pollution and breathing in toxins, but it also contributes to damaging environmental, economic, and climate impacts.

Most ECOWAS member states observe 0-10% of their populations as having access to clean cooking options, the majority using solid fuels as a primary cooking fuel (ESMAP, 2020). The onset of the novel coronavirus (COVID19) in 2020 has compounded the issues with solid fuels, emphasizing a heightened need for clean and affordable options; there is evidence that polluted air increases infection recovery time, the severity of the virus, heightens respiratory distress, not to mention the economic devastation within communities that COVID19 has caused (Comunian et al, 2020).

In an attempt to communicate the benefits of bioethanol to the ECOWAS member states, a two day conference had been scheduled for fall 2020 as a follow up to the ESEF2020. Unfortunately, due to COVID19, in person meetings were delayed and the conference was established as a virtual event. In order to maintain traction from ESEF2020 and promote clean energy options, this proposed follow-up virtual workshop specific to bioethanol, is led by Pivot, a newly formed global bioethanol coalition.

Pivot was created to accelerate the transition to clean bioethanol for household energy around the world. By joining collaboratively with other entities in the bioethanol industry and clean energy sectors, Pivot strives to improve market intelligence and communication around bioethanol, catalyze funding to support new or growing enterprise in developing countries, and strengthen supply infrastructure and policies to support affordable, safe solutions for consumers. The goals of Pivot to drive coordination and messaging within the bioethanol sector fit well with many of the objectives in ECOWAS and the goals member states have for reducing emissions. Bringing expertise, practical experience, well established partnerships, and appropriate technologies, Pivot can introduce ECOWAS countries to new opportunities within bioethanol.

2. Rationale of the proposed workshop

Solid fuels are used by 75-95% of the population in ECOWAS member states, excluding Senegal and Cabo Verde; this use of charcoal and wood for cooking causes a multitude of health, environmental, and social issues (GLPGP, 2015). The need to support development of effective and transformative cooking solutions, from the production to supply chain management to customer service, is immense. It is therefore important to promote an option that will address not only the cooking problem, but the many other social and economic issues that accompany solid fuel economies. Bioethanol cookstoves



and cooking fuel provide an option that is modern, efficient, safe, affordable, quality, easy to use, and has greatly reduced emissions. Working to identify local and international stakeholders within the clean cooking sector and other related sectors, ECREEE and its partners intend to offer opportunities for education, engagement, product knowledge, supply chain development, and funding. By engaging with local stakeholders to help inform on the current environment, the process of developing clean solutions for target populations will be more straightforward and allow the potential for pilot program development.

3. Objectives

The overall objective of these activities is to undertake training activities on various topics on clean and affordable cookstoves, specifically bioethanol options; there will be discussion around the health, economic, social, and environmental benefits of bioethanol as a fuel, how to involve the private sector actors/NGOs, and the importance of standards and civic education.

The specific objective of this activity is to:

- Introduce bioethanol as a cooking and transportation fuel
- Provide insight as to how bioethanol could be utilized in the ECOWAS region to help meet emissions goals for member states
- Demonstrate the benefits and requirements on how standard, labels, and policy changes can transform the clean cooking industry
- Promote local manufacturing of efficient, affordable, clean cookstoves and support the emergence of local businesses and create local employment
- Identify key stakeholders within private entities (market enablers and players) and national/international organizations that are interested in developing and implementing investments in clean cooking projects in the member states
- Introduce opportunities to lessen the impact of COVID 19 by transitioning to clean fuels
- Determine the feasibility of initiating pilot projects in key member states to assess larger scale initiatives

4. Expected outcome/deliverables

- The role of bioethanol stoves and fuel in a clean cooking system is well understood by participants
- The role bioethanol can play in a transportation system to help countries meet national blending goals is well understood by participants
- Participants of ECOWAS member states are strengthened to develop and implement investments in clean cooking projects



- Relevant organizations within standards and policy are empowered to begin establishing appropriate legislation around bioethanol for their region
- Information on best practices and opportunities within the sector is shared with participants
- Participants understand the multi-sector, holistic impact that can result within an ecosystem through a transition to bioethanol
- Key takeaways for how bioethanol opportunities could lessen the harmful effects of COVID 19 from a health and economic perspective
- Prepare participants for in person follow-up workshops in 2021 to assess progress on virtual workshop objectives

5. Participants/Target groups

The target groups for the capacity building workshop are:

- Government ministries or individuals associated with government sponsored development initiatives (could include health, environment, gender, etc) in ECOWAS Member States
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and public entities promoting clean cooking or development in ECOWAS Member States
- Technicians and companies already in the production and dissemination of clean cookstoves and/or fuel in the specified ECOWAS Member States.
- Private entrepreneurs in the clean cooking industry in ECOWAS Member States

6. Location

This Capacity building workshop will be done online training.

7. Language

The training material will be in English. The interpretation into French will be available.

8. Contact

For more information regarding this event, please contact:

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9. Agenda

TIME	ACTIVITIES
DAY 1	
15:00 – 15:30 GMT	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opening remarks, ECREEE ● Introduction of participants (Name, organization, expectation for workshop, etc.) ● Presentation of workshop objectives, expected outcomes and agenda by xx, ECREEE
15:30 - 18:00 GMT	Session 1: Overview & Support for Liquid Fuels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bioethanol as a clean, low-carbon option <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bioethanol and its role in the cooking sector ○ Bioethanol and its role in the transportation system ● Importance of Standards and Policy Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need for standards/quality control ○ Role of regional/national organizations ○ Trade and import implications ○ Policy and Regulation aspects ● Q & A
DAY 2	
15:00 - 18:00 GMT	Session 2: Sector Specific Impact & COVID Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adjacent Sector Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social/Gender ○ Health ○ Environment/Climate ○ Economy ● Bioethanol and COVID Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How Bioethanol can impact country economics ○ A healthier long-term solution ● Q & A
END OF WORKSHOP	



References

Comunian, S., Dongo, D., Milani, C., & Palestini, P. (2020). Air Pollution and Covid-19: The Role of Particulate Matter in the Spread and Increase of Covid-19's Morbidity and Mortality. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 17(12), 4487.

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