



IVORY COAST: Reducing Firewood Usage by improving Stoves for Energy-Efficiency

Project No: IVC/05/03

Grantee: Centre d'Alphabétisation pour la
Promotion de la Femme (CAPF)

Location: Abidjan, Ivory Coast

SGP Contribution: USD\$ 13,000

Cash Co-Financing:

In-Kind Co-Financing:

Project Duration: 12/2005 - 12/2006

Number of people served: 300

Focal area: Climate Change

Background

Kouté-village is a village located in Yopougon, in the west of Abidjan. The population living in this village relies mainly on fishing and agricultural activities for food security and income. Attiéké (semolina of cassava) is the staple food product in Kouté-village, which is also largely consumed at the national level. Women living in this village are primarily engaged in the production and sale of Attiéké and palm oil. These activities require large amounts of fire wood-based energy and produce significant CO2 emissions. The project undertaken by the Centred'Alphabétisation pour la Promotion de la Femme (CAPF), and supported by the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), targets the reduction of both firewood consumption and CO2 emissions in the production of Attiéké, by promoting the use of improved energy-efficient stoves.

Project Objectives and Key Activities

The main objective of this project was to contribute to the reduction in the use of firewood use and related CO2 emissions. Beyond this objective, the project targeted the protection of the Banco forest, which is an important one in Abidjan. Given that women are the ones directly engaged in the production and sale of Attiéké, most of the key activities were geared towards women's empowerment and participation. Thus, as part of the project, 10 women leaders from the village were trained on how to build improved cooking stoves and as a result 147 improved cooking stoves were built. This transfer of the know-how ensures the sustainability of the project.

Environmental Impact

The improved stoves resulted in a 50% reduction in firewood consumption, which in an equivalent of ### CO2 emissions avoided or # of trees. Furthermore, the stoves decreased the smoke emitted from burning firewood, hence promoting healthier indoor environments for women and their families. In addition, the use of improved cooking stoves had a positive impact on the Banco forest, protected forest area in the city of Abidjan, as the community reduced its reliance on firewood from old latex-trees mainly coming from this forest.





Socio-Economic Impact

Ten women leaders were trained to build the improved and more efficient cooking stoves. As a result, six hundred improved stoves were built (147 in Koute-village) and are currently used by households in the three villages. In Koute-village, 147 women are producing Attiéké and generating US\$1,600 per month. In addition, more than 2,000 persons are employed part time by the grantees for a salary of 2.5 USD per day. The project also enabled the community members to enhance increase their income by reducing expenses such as buying firewood.

Policy Impact

Several municipalities within the city of Abidjan such as GBOUGBO, N’GATTY, and GRAND LAHOU are interested in undertaking a similar project. It is expected that a wider penetration of improved cooking stoves would have an overall impact on lowering CO2 emissions and reducing firewood consumption at the national level.

Gender Mainstreaming

Women were the main implementers and beneficiaries of this project, and as a result they were able to gain additional skills, increase their production and income and improve their overall livelihoods. In particular, the women involved in attiéké (cassava semolina) production were able to save money on firewood, reduce health risks caused by smoke exposure, and generated additional income by improved production.

For the 10 women leaders trained on how to build improved cook stoves, this new and great income-generating activity has contributed to an improvement in their social status, both in their families and at the community level, as they are now able to contribute to both and even take care of their family expenses - education, child care and family expenses and improve project-. As a result, women feel empowered, are more organized and have greater self-confidence.

Replication and up scaling

This project is a replication of past successful projects of energy-efficient cook stoves carried out between 1998-2000 in the northern and the central regions of Côte d’Ivoire.

Lessons learned

So far, the use of improved cooking stoves is more accepted in the urban areas of Côte d’Ivoire where women are using it for generating income activities, and therefore, a reduction in firewood expenses represents a good incentive. In rural areas, even when the collection of firewood is difficult for distance reasons, there are some barriers preventing the widespread use of energy-efficient improved cook stoves mainly because of cultural habits.