Improving Cookstoves for Reducing Indoor Air Pollution: VERC Experience from Bangladesh





VILLAGE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER Est. 1977



Mission: Establish and promote a dynamic and participatory sustainable process towards human development

Approach: Multi-sectoral, integrated development at grassroots level



Geographical Coverage



- Operations in 34 districts (54 subdistricts and 283 Unions)
- Partnership with 126 national and local NGOs
- Over 2343 staff
- More than 2.2 million beneficiaries
- Annual Budget (2011-12): US\$ 23.6m







Major Activities





Community Mobilization



CMC Formation

MPA Practice

VERC



CMC Meeting

Social Marketing





STREET, STREET, Poster, Newsletter

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Social Marketing





Demonstration Center





ICS Adopter



Exhibition

Behavioral Change Communication





Courtyard Meeting



School Session



Film Show



Folk Songs

Capacity Building







MPA Training

Training of Trainers (TOT)



Entrepreneur Development







Cap Making Installer







Training Accessories



Progress in ICS Program

- Nearly 53,000 ICS installed so far
- •Trained over 900 stove builders incl. 65% Women
- Conducted over 500 Awareness programs
- Promoted 5 stove models





ICS Models





ICS Models





ICS Installation









Stove Maintenance





Stove Performance

• Water Boiling Test

- Three tests were performed on both stoves (traditional and ICS)
- The fuel consumed and the water evaporated measured digitally
- The total emissions were collected with Aprovecho's Portable Emissions Measurement System
- The test was performed using the same traditional pots on both stoves







WBT Results



Measures	Unit	Traditional Stove	Improved Stove
Fuel to boil 2.5 lt water	Grams	2594	969
СО	Grams	75	56
PM	m Grams	3252	1817
Energy content	Kilo Joules	47762	17850
Time	Minutes	25	22
CO ₂	Grams	3248	1559
Thermal Efficiency	%	8	16



Stove Performance



• Controlled Cooking Test

- 18 stoves (9 traditional and 9 ICS) tested with three cooks
- Same meal of rice, lentil and greens (by weight) cooked on all stoves

Ingredient	Weight (g)
Rice	750
Lentil	112
Onion/garlic/peppers	58
Water	3110
Condiments	21
Leaves	460
Oil	72



Controlled Cooking Test













CCT Results



Measure	% reduction in ICS
Specific Fuel Consumption	61%
СО	40%
PM	58%
CO ₂	42%

Specific Fuel Consumption



CCT Results





Beneficiaries





Name: Lata and Komola

Period of ICS use: Two years Perceive benefits:

- Less fuel consumption
- Saves time
- Saves money
- Has more time for socializing



Stove Builders



Name: Shafali

Period: 2 years

Monthly income: 3000-4000 Tk (\$40-50)



Name: Usha

Period: 1.5 years

Monthly income: 3000-4000 Tk (\$40-50)



Entrepreneurs



Name: Md. Babu Ali

- ICS Pipe Industry
- Income -- 15,000 TK
- Employs 5 people





Name: Maya Khala

- Selling portable stoves
- Income: 10,000 Tk (\$125)
- Employs 2 people

Major Lessons



- ICS should be selected according to community demands and geophysical context
- Creating awareness on ill effects of indoor air pollution through motivational films and other means is imperative to effect behavioral change
- Demonstrations, taking part in exhibitions, etc. can help generate demand for ICS technology
- Information, educational and capacity building materials and manuals should be compatible with the socio-cultural norms to be acceptable to the community
- Acceptance levels for ICS can be increased by adopting an integrated approach at local level
- Stove building is a seasonal activity, so does not provide full time employment; important to integrate it with other livelihood activities to retain skilled people
- Quality control and regular monitoring are essential to ensure effective performance of ICS

Conclusions and Future Plans



VERC has demonstrated capability to undertake large, scaled-up interventions in ICS dissemination

- Well-proven community-based approach
- Extensive network of local associates and partners
- High name recognition among local communities
- Strong technical, training and program management skills among experienced staff
- VERC has targeted dissemination of 500,000 ICS over the next 5 years
- Substantive grants or carbon finance will be necessary to ensure sustainability of ICS programs that target poorest of the poor