

ACTION PLAN Framework



**ECOWAS INITIATIVE ON CLEAN, SAFE, EFFICIENT AND
AFFORDABLE COOKING ENERGY SOLUTIONS**

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1. Introduction



The energy access situation in the ECOWAS Region is characterised by low access rates and high dependency on traditional biomass for cooking. According to the energy balance of the region, almost 78% of the total energy demand of the region comes from traditional biomass with over 90% of the population using wood and charcoal for domestic cooking. These energy sources are unsustainably produced and utilised and are also inefficient. The over-dependence of the populations on traditional biomass contributes to the destruction of the natural forest, causes smoke-related health problems and creates overall environmental challenges within the region.

In an effort to introduce clean, safe and efficient cooking energy sources to its populations, ECOWAS adopted a Regional Policy on Increasing Access to Energy Services for the Rural and Peri-Urban Populations called the 'ECOWAS White Paper'. The White Paper aims to provide access to modern cooking fuels to 100% of the population or 325 million people

At the ECOWAS-GFSE High Level Energy Forum in October 2012 in Accra, Ghana, the ECOWAS Energy Ministers adopted two **Regional Policies on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and the ECOWAS Bioenergy Strategy Framework**. These policies and strategies promote efficiency in cooking and the use of modern and clean cooking fuels in order to achieve universal access to safe, clean, affordable, efficient and sustainable cooking fuels for the entire ECOWAS population by 2030.

It is expected that by 2020, 100% of the population would be served with improved cook-stoves and the share of the population served with modern and alternative fuels, including LPG, for cooking should be increased to 36% by 2020 and 41% by 2030. Moreover the share of efficient charcoal production should be increased to 60% by 2020 and 100% by 2030;

The Bioenergy Strategy Framework indicates heavy dependence of the population on traditional biomass, as much as 78% of the total energy demand. This places a huge burden on the environment and affects the health of users and results in unsustainable and inefficient cooking. The Bioenergy Strategy promotes the use of alternatives to fuelwood such as biogas, bio-ethanol fuel and stoves, LPG and bio-charcoal. It also sets out a plan for enhanced and sustainable forest management.

To further deepen the process of providing safe, sustainable and affordable cooking, the ECOWAS Clean Cooking Initiative was launched at the ECOWAS-GFSE High Level Energy Forum in Accra, Ghana on the 30th October 2012. This ECOWAS Initiative called **West Africa Clean Cooking Alliance (WACCA)** aims to ensure that the targets set in the ECOWAS policies are met.

The primary focus of the initiative is to increase the efficiency and sustainability of biomass based cooking energy and introducing modern biofuels such as ethanol, biogas and briquettes. WACCA therefore shall focus on providing safe, sustainable and affordable cooking through:

- improving the efficiency and sustainability of the traditional wood and charcoal cooking energy value chain through sustainable forest management, improved charcoal conversion, and use of 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 fuel is clean and highly efficient.

2. Institutional Structure of WACCA

WACCA is an ECREEE-led programme and jointly implemented with several technical partners, including the Austrian Energy Agency, ETC-ENERGIA, the Global Alliance for Clean Cook Stoves,

GERES, GIZ, and ICEED.WACCA is liaising with existing initiatives and strengthens coordination activities. National, regional and international actors are invited to join the Alliance.

3. Work Programme

WACCA, as part of the Action Plan of the ECOWAS Regional Policies on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, has a 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.

3.1. Regional components

At the Regional level, the initiative will support the member states in developing and adopting policies and standards on efficiency and on emissions for cooking fuels and cooking devices.

For 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.

3.2. National Components

The National Components of the initiative will include, but not be limited to the following:

- a. policies and tools;
- b. country evaluations to determine the nationally appropriate actions for cooking energy;
- c. training to support national action plans, addressing human capacity bottlenecks in cooking fuel supply as well as market introduction and usage of improved cooking devices;
- d. awareness raising activities on the uses and benefits of using efficient, alternative and modern cooking fuels and devices for both domestic and productive sectors; and
- e. financing mechanisms to support the mobilisation of micro-finance and carbon finance for scaling-up successful business models.

3.1. Focus on the cooking energy value chain

The WACCA initiative focuses on the entire value chain for cooking energy including sustainable forest resource management. Forest Resources Management is the planning, administration, and management of a wide variety of forest resources to provide environmental and economic benefits for society in the rural areas and including wood, wildlife, special forest products, water, and recreational opportunities.

The WACCA action plan envisages efficient and sustainable management of forest resources for both the supply and demand side, introduction and development of efficient and cleaner fuels and stoves, capacity enhancement across the entire value chain.

4. Key elements of the WACCA Action Plan

In order to reach consensus on the framework of the WACCA Action plan and its implementation across the ECOWAS Member States, the first Regional workshop has been convened. The workshop was held from April 23 -25, 2013 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The following elements constitute the framework and basis of the regional WACCA action plan.

1. Policy and regulatory framework:

A regional and clean cooking policy framework will be developed and adopted by the Member States:

- a. Develop and adopt ECOWAS-wide regional clean cooking policies, strategies and targets, including legal and regulatory mechanisms in line with the existing ECOWAS regional policies and the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative in order to reach market transformation towards modern and alternative fuels and efficient devices to reduce health and environmental impacts;
- b. Review existing national policies and strategies where necessary, including legal and regulatory mechanisms and identify areas of adaptation and;
- c. Enhance the legal and regulatory frameworks and improve price structures for cooking fuels and devices on national and regional levels.

2. Supply chain of Cooking Fuels

To ensure access to clean, efficient, safe and affordable cooking energy, the entire cooking energy value chain has to be adequately addressed. Therefore, and in collaboration with national and regional institutions, actions on the value chain of sustainable cooking fuels should include the development of policies and strategies, production, conversion, transportation, distribution and consumption.

- a. Promote participatory and sustainable forest management, based on decentralisation policies under recognition of the role of human activities in forest management;
- b. Establishment of necessary public policies to support and stimulate the involvement of the private sector for energy efficient and carbon neutral production and sales;
- c. Encourage the establishment of small and medium enterprises for distribution of efficient fuels at local level
- d. Development of capacity building programmes in collaboration with the local communities;
- e. Implement monitoring system for the fuel wood value chain regarding species selection and appropriate cutting cycles for effective resource management and;
- f. Strengthen partnership with research and development institutions on the identification of gaps and implement appropriate activities
- g. Support the development of activities in the context of the REDD+ initiative that reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and ensure sustainable forest management and enhancement of carbon stocks.

3. Gender responsive actions and economic empowerment of women

The development and implementation of gender responsive policies and programmes on clean and efficient cooking are of key importance. Special focus needs to be given on the economic empowerment of women through their increased involvement in the cooking energy value chains).

- a. Develop and implement gender responsive (national) policies and programmes on clean and efficient cooking;
- b. Economic empowerment of women through their increased involvement in the cooking energy value chains;

- c. Capacity building of policy makers and practitioners to integrate gender in their cooking energy policies and programmes and;
- d. Integration of gender indicators in all baseline studies.
- e. Establishment of a Regional Gender Technical Committee that will be responsible for making WACCA gender sensitive ;
- f. Conduct gender analysis of business models to evaluate economic implications for women in the value chain as well as social benefits and barriers for women related to different production modes ;
- g. Development of practical guidelines for mapping gender in the cooking energy value chains;
- h. Gender integration in all marketing and awareness raising messages at regional level to ensure that women and men are targeted and to ensure the content is gender sensitive and ;
- i. Gender integration into the WACCA M&E framework, including development of a gender objective, gender activities and gender indicators

4. Capacity Building

Building capacities to improve knowledge and skills is a necessary pre-requisite for the improvement of the cooking energy situation. It is essential that all capacity building activities give serious consideration to gender balance. Capacity building activities should be tailored towards the specific demand of the respective target group.

- a. Develop a regional capacity building program for public and private actors;
- b. Develop capacity building manuals on various aspects of on clean cooking fuels and devices;
- c. Conduct regional capacity building forums on clean cooking using both conventional and innovative approaches and establish online platforms for knowledge sharing and training for stakeholders;
- d. Conduct training of trainers sessions
- e. Engagement of national institutions who are responsible for data collection\capitalisation and dissemination of knowledge and support national capacity building activities;
- f. Sensitize the potential users of improved stoves according to the need to implement improved stoves;
- g. Provide information about all relevant elements of successful implementation includinghard- and software-aspects of the technology, its availability, and financing-schemes;
- h. Capacity building for the private sector and financing institutions throughout the value chain of improved cook stoves and;
- i. Capacity building to help stove producers improve the production techniques and processes.



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5. Working towards a market transformation of cooking fuels and devices

- a. Support the design, production, testing, and upscale production of improved cooking fuels and devices;
- b. Support the dissemination of knowledge on improved processes, notably for semi-industrial food preparation: bread, beer, etc. ;
- c. Training of commercial users on improved fuels and cookstove maintenance and operations;
- d. Support the development of micro-enterprise clusters to foster collective efficiency and establish vertical linkages between the clusters and the distribution & supply chains for improved cook stoves and;
- e. Training of cook stove producers and users.

6. Standards and labeling

- a. Introduce a sustainable, independent and efficient control mechanism, including harmonized monitoring and testing protocols;
- b. Develop and adopt, in close coordination with the regional ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Initiative on Standards and Labeling, technological standards for cooking fuels and appliances in the terms of efficiency, safety and health impacts in accordance with international bodies such as the Global Alliance for Clean Cook Stoves and;
- c. Disseminate and sensitize the public, in close coordination with the ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Initiative on Standards and Labeling.
- d. Foster bilateral and international cooperation in the development of standards and labeling

7. Networking and knowledge sharing

- a. Create a regional hub for data capitalisation and share knowledge and experience in terms of technologies and innovations and link with selected research centres;
- b. Catalogue best policies, strategies and practices for knowledge sharing;
- c. Publish policies and successfully implemented projects on the ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECOWREX) and other related sites;
- d. Produce publicity and information materials on clean cooking (fuels and stoves) for dissemination and;
- e. Conduct Information dissemination and sensitization activities on the entire value chain at regional and national levels

8. Demonstration/pilots projects for regional scaling up

- a. Conduct demonstration/pilot projects on innovative and clean fuels & devices for upscaling and;
- b. Encourage local innovation and competition on best practices on efficient, clean and safe cooking fuels and stoves.

9. Economic and financial issues

Tailored funding mechanisms and schemes for investment projects (for domestic and commercial use) have to be developed. Consideration should be given to:

- a. Map financing mechanisms including local financing opportunities;
- b. Develop programs to enhance access to finance for producers to improve, strengthen, and expand production capacity, improve quality of the cookstoves, and decentralize production and distribution of cooking fuels and devices;
- c. Identify and support access to finance (micro-finance, loans, guarantee mechanisms, investments, and carbon finance) for entrepreneurs and cookstove producers to set up regional/national production centres and/or scale up their businesses;
- d. Target areas where public economic or financial measures could help to achieve the objectives of sustainable cooking;
- e. Mobilise private investment and encourage involvement of the private sector and banks in funding sustainable cooking energy investment projects;
- f. Increase the use of carbon financing opportunities for sustainable cooking energy projects through capacity building, awareness raising and project development; and
- g. Improve the regulatory framework for stabilizing the pricing structure of cooking fuels.

5. The way forward

After the adoption of the framework of this action plan by the Member States, the detailed document will be elaborated with concrete actions on the regional and national level and circulated for validation. WACCA will work with the Member States and partners on the implementation of these actions.

DONE AT OUAGADOUGOU THIS 25TH DAY OF APRIL 2013

Mr. Rimnogdo Narcisse SAWADOGO

Director General of Energy

Ministry of Mines and Energy

BURKINA FASO



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