

Development of Untapped Energy Alternatives: A Potential Project in Addressing Energy Problems in the Rural Ethiopia

Energy is one of the scarce resources therefore is a growing concern across the globe. Meeting energy needs has become a critical challenge for developing countries especially in sub Saharan African countries. This problem is highly prevalent in the rural areas of Ethiopia since household's source of energy in the rural area is highly dependent on biomass led to entrenched deforestation and environmental degradation. In view of tackling the problem, the government of Ethiopia has made attempts in designing recent various but relevant development policies and programs includes Climate Resilience Green Economy (CRGE) and Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP).

In line with this, the Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Center/Network (HoAREC), based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, through the financial support of the EU Energy Facility, has started implementation of a project entitled 'Integrated Approach to Meet Rural Household Energy Needs in Ethiopia' in three regions of the country namely Amhara, Oromia and Tigray. The project is being implemented through partnership of thirteen organizations include

- Arsi Nature Conservation and Environmental Development Action (ANCEDA)
- Environmental Development Action (ENDA—Ethiopia)
- Ethiopian Alternative Energy Development and Promotion Center (EAEDPC)
- Forum for Environment (FfE)
- German International Cooperation (GIZ)
- Inter-church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)
- Netherlands Development Organization (SNV)
- Organization for Rehabilitation and Development Association (ORDA)
- Oromia Water Mines and Energy Bureau (OWMER)
- Partnership for Integrated Sustainable Development Association (PISDA)
- Relief Society of Tigray (REST)
- Sustainable Environment and Development Action (SEDA)
- Solar Cooking the Netherlands (SCN)

Solar Cooking Foundation the Netherlands (SCN) is one of the implementer organization. SCN has been involved in the promotion of Integrated Solar Cooking (ISC) technologies applicable in African rural settings mainly in Eriteria, Uganda and Ethiopia. The appliances include solar cookit, heat retention basket, solar box, solar dryer and water pasteurization indicator (WAPI). In addition to these appliances, SCN further integrates and promotes energy efficient stoves include Mirt and Tikikil stoves in the project.

The project has targeted six woredas of three regions namely Amhara, Oromia and Tigray. Summary on the targeted woredas and



Regions	Woreda	Targeted House-holds	RE & EE Centers
Amhara	Bati	1,500	3
Oromia	Ada'a	1,500	3
	Arsi Negelle	2,000	4
	Boset Fedis	2,000 1,500	4 3
Tigray	Kolatembien	1,500	3
Total		10,000	20

The main focus of the EU energy project is promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient Technologies within the six targeted woredas of the three regions. The main project implementation strategy is establishment of twenty Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient Technology Centers (RETCs). The technology centers will be organized and established within enterprise framework as Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Other project strategies include active participation of stakeholders, market creation, linking micro enterprise institutes with rural households and the SMEs; and finally utilizing locally available resources.

The project has two major components: awareness creation; and production and dissemination integrated renewable energy and energy efficient technologies in the targeted six woredas.

The project was officially launched at national level in October 2011 and in the respective three regions and six woredas during the months of June and July 2012. The main objectives of the launching workshops were to create awareness on the project and the potential benefits that it will bring to communities in the targeted project areas. The workshop was attended by various relevant stakeholders mainly from different government sectoral offices as these stakeholders are critical for the smooth project implementation and in the realization of the project objectives.

Participants at the National Project Launching Workshop



Prior to the launching workshops, site selection visits were conducted to the respective proposed kebeles identified for REC constructions. The kebeles were proposed based on the set criteria considered for the center construction. Some of the criteria includes off grid areas, accessibility/availability of various infrastructures mainly road, water and market. Based on these criteria, twenty sites were selected and the project was able to secure land for twenty center constructions which requires 1000M² land per center.



Discussions and site visits on proposed kebeles for REC constructions

The project is a four year project for which HoAREC has entered into agreement with the EU Energy Facility in August 2011 to execute the project through its partner and associate organizations operates in the three regions.

If you are interested on reading detail information on the EU energy project, please visit the HoAREC website www.hoarec.org.