



Discussion guidance note - Working Group 4

Bioenergy and Clean Cooking

DAY 2 – 30 March

General topic

This working group has two interlinked topics:

1. Bioenergy data and sustainability
2. Access to Clean Cooking Solutions

Working Group Context

Biomass represents more than 60% of primary energy of Sub-Saharan Africa, a share that raises to more than 80% excluding South Africa. Biomass is the largest primary energy source in all but two SSA Countries and represents up to 90% of households energy consumption, mainly for heating and cooking, with severe consequences on health, economics, gender balance and the environment. Solid biomass is used largely in inefficient and unhealthy stoves, if not on open fires, and its environmental sustainability depends on local conditions, whose assessment is often constrained by lack of reliable data. In particular the growth in the use of charcoal, also driven by urbanization, can have strong negative impacts on the environment, due to deforestation, land degradation and black carbon emissions.

Access to Clean Cooking Solutions and non-solid fuels is still extremely low and, crucially, in most countries it is barely keeping pace with population growth.

Moderator and scene setting

- Daniel Wanjohi from the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves will be the moderator for the session and will introduce the parallel working group context & objectives.

Section one

- Gerard Ostheimer, Bioenergy Partnership, will briefly present the Bioenergy partnership and introduce the Africa Biomass Data Initiative.



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- Florent Eveille, FAO, will highlight the main issues on the sustainability of bioenergy.

Section two

- John Hauge and Renzo Bee, Global LPG Partnership, will present on the role of LPG in addressing the lack of access to clean cooking solutions in Africa and what the GLPGP can do to help countries addressing the LPG related priorities in their Action Agendas, with reference to the specific case study of Cameroun

Section one – Bioenergy

At the 3rd Annual Workshop on Advancing SEforALL Country Action in Africa, in February 2016, participants flagged the challenge of the strong reliance on biomass resources for energy in Sub-Saharan Africa. They noted the paucity of data on biomass production and use that is hampering efforts to raise awareness within governments of the importance of sustainable biomass to the energy agenda, and to identify solutions to better reduce and manage its use.

SEforALL agreed to consult with relevant global actors, regional and nations bodies, to explore the issues of biomass data collection and reporting in more depth with a view to convene a multi-stakeholder discussion around ways to address biomass data challenges as needed.

Working jointly with the SEforALL Africa Hub, UNECA, FAO and the Bioenergy HIO, SEforALL has engaged in multiple bilateral and some multi-stakeholder consultations¹ to better understand these issues, explore needs and solutions. This has included consultations with several key international, regional and local actors on biomass energy production and use. A voluntary partnership is starting to emerge to respond to these data challenges.

This section aims to discuss the following points:

1. Provide a concise report of the activities undertaken by SEforALL with partners since the 3rd Annual Workshop;

¹ This includes the World Bank, ESMAP, Practical Action, UNFCCC, IRENA and FAO, IEA, UNEP, UNDP, REN21 and GBEP



2. Seek feedback from participants on challenges, needs and potential solutions;
3. Explore possible next steps and participants interest in supporting a response to biomass data challenges in Africa.

Section two - Access Clean Cooking Solutions

Access to Clean Cooking Solutions, and creation of sustainable bioenergy value chains, is a theme that is widely treated in the national SEforALL Agendas with particular focus on reducing unsustainable fuelwood and charcoal use, strengthening forestry regulations and management, and promoting the wider use of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Other interventions include raising awareness of the gender aspects of clean cooking, given the strong traditional gender roles associated with both cooking and the collection/procurement of wood and domestic fuels. Priority actions in the Action Agendas include:

- **Setting up the right enabling environment** to dramatically expand the adoption of clean cooking solutions and sustainable fuel supply chains. On the appliances side, the actions include promoting standards for efficiency, safety, and emission reduction, together with rigorous testing protocols and labelling. On the fuels side, the Agendas point to better regulation of biofuels collection and transformation to reduce their environmental impact; for example, through formalization of the charcoal sector, reinforcement of forestry regulations, or the introduction of an integrated taxation approach that incentivises cleaner alternatives.
- **On the supply side**, the priority actions identified include support to local manufacturers and suppliers for the development, production, marketing and retailing of high-performing cook stoves. This includes the removal of import tariffs on materials required, imposing minimum standards that rise over time, providing testing and certification services, and implementing quality control and enforcement. Supply-side interventions also include financial instruments to allow the scale-up of production by stove manufacturers through financial intermediaries. Finally, promotion of LPG is a central part of the Action Agendas in many countries.
- **On the demand side**, the countries prioritised actions to increase the market demand for clean cooking solutions based on two main actions: awareness and behavioural change campaigns. The objectives of these actions are to increase the social acceptance and the inclination to make a permanent switch to cleaner fuels and



appliances, and the development of microfinancing schemes to enable families with limited resources to purchase cleaner and more efficient.

This roundtable discussion will take into account the priority actions on Clean Cooking Solutions identified in the AAs and reflect on their implementation status and challenges, and will in particular discuss the following three themes:

- 1. Strengthening of the policy & regulatory framework for implementation of CCS / LPG programs at country level.** *What support instruments are available to assist countries in implementing the priorities related to clean cooking in their Action Agendas? What actions shall be prioritized to improve the enabling environment in order to arrive to a sustained expansions of the market for clean cooking stoves and fuels?*
- 2. Mobilization of required technical assistance and investments for CCS/LPG programs.** *How can country CCS/LPG programs be supported and sustained to make them able to take off and substantially increase the penetration of CCS?*
- 3. Addressing the capacity building needs in the clean cooking space.** *What are the capacity building needs and requirements of both the private sector actors and public institution related to the CCS space? How can these be addressed?*

Expected outcomes

For both sections, the working group will elaborate a set of **key recommendations** to be reported for discussions to the plenary session.