

Project Update: March 2014

Twenty members participated in the training on making affordable energy saving stoves using locally available materials. The exercise took place at the Sub County headquarters where an energy saving stove was constructed for the Sub County office clerk under the guidance of the Facilitator.

Materials

The following materials were used: anthill soil (inactive anthill), water and a starchy solution made out of sweet potato leaves. An inactive anthill was preferred to prevent disrupting (and damaging) the termite colony.

Procedure

Six wheelbarrows of anthill soil were mixed with two wheelbarrows of sand and an appropriate amount of water. Sweet potato leaves were squeezed in water to create a thick starchy solution with cement-like and plastering properties. This solution was added to the anthill soil-sand mixture to improve its strength and was firmly placed in a corner of the kitchen, plastered and well shaped in the form of a stove. Positions for the saucepans and firewood were indicated. After two days, soil was excavated from those positions to create space for the firewood.

Achievements

- The participants learnt how to make energy saving stoves (that use less firewood) from locally available resources.
- Women showed overwhelming interest during the training and keenly participated in the training.
- One member committed to using the skills gained to earn a living. Accordingly, he has so far constructed energy saving stoves for three households at a small fee.

