

Project Update: June 2017

1. Preamble

The aim of the project is to create awareness of and introduce efficient cook stove in selected rural households in Guinea Savannah zone of Nigeria. Specifically, the project is targeted at communities where charcoal production and firewood collection by household is highly predominant. The study is focused on women who happen to be the main cook and firewood collector.

The activities carried out in the first phase of the project include bringing together of the project team, interactive sessions by project team to discuss and share lessons from the previous cook stove projects, developing criteria for selection of project locations, design of the project tool, and logistics for selection of the targeted respondents. This second phase of the study involves reconnaissance survey to the proposed communities to be adopted for the project.

2. Activities for the Second Phase of the Project

This second phase of the project was carried out between May and June 2017 and consists of:

- Identification and selection of the rural communities where the project is to be implemented;
- Meeting and explaining of the project goal to the local leaders; and
- Pre-test of the drafted structured questionnaire.

3. Identification and Selection of Communities for the Project

Visits were made to a number of communities in the Guinea savanna zone of Kwara State. However, the local village that met the stated criteria for implementation of the cook stove project was *Bukola* village. The village is located in Ilorin East Local Government Area with headquarters in Oke Oyi.

Bukola village has three communities under it and they include *Oha Meje* Community, *Budo Are* Community, and *Akewusola* Community. The three communities share a lot in common from their location in the remote area to culture which is mainly Yoruba, and religion mainly Islam. The road leading into the communities are untarred and rough. The communities jointly owe a secondary school. They also jointly share electricity lines; although the people informed that they rarely have constant electricity supply.

With about 150 houses, *Oha Meje* is the most advanced of the three communities. The community has a primary school, modern building, and mosques constructed with cement blocks. The community gets its water from manual borehole. There is also modern toilets in some of the buildings. The community also has a central diesel generator bought and donated by descendants of the community based and

working in the cities. Other smaller communities that together form *Oha meje* include *Oha Issa*, *Oha Gbagi*, *Oha Igbanan*, *Oha Osin*, *Oha Gbogun*, *Oha Temidire*, and *Oha Ajanaku*. Each of the *Oha*'s has its leader known as "Mogaji" and subject to the superior leader known as "Baale".

Akewusola community is next in term of development to *Oha Meje* community with about 60 houses comprising both concrete blocks and mud houses. The community has a big overhead water tank with borehole and electric water pump. The community is headed by a *Baale* and two *Magaji*'s each for its smaller communities: *Araromi* and *Obate*.

Budo Aare on its own is the least developed with about 30 houses dominated with mud houses. It has its *Baale*, and one community, *Isale Osin* with its *Mogaji*. The community also has manual borehole as one of the sources of his domestic water.

4. Meeting with the Community Leaders

On arriving at each of the communities, the house of the community leaders, mainly the *Baale*, was first requested for. On meeting the *Baale*, the project goal is properly explained. Most especially, the leaders were informed of the advantage of the proposed efficient cook stove to be introduced. Some of the advantages of the cook stove include cooking convenience for women, reduction or prevention of pollution through smoke from firewood, reduction in the frequency of firewood collection, among others. The project also has the potential of contributing to community development through the incorporation of youth in the later part of the project that involves the production of efficient cook stove compactible to available local resources.

All the leaders of the three visited communities welcomed the project idea and gave their full support for its implementation.

5. Pre-test of the Drafted Questionnaire

Pre-test of the structured questionnaire was carried out in the three communities during the reconnaissance survey. This is to confirm the validity and reliability of the drafted questionnaire. Focus group discussion was adopted for the pre-test survey.

6. Preliminary Information

Custom and Tradition: As earlier stated, the three communities have common practices with respect to custom and tradition. In the leadership structure of the three communities, after the death of the existing leader, the next *Baale* and/or *Mogaji* are jointly decided through family lineage.

Main Occupation: From generation observation, farming was the main occupation of majority of the male in the three communities, while the women engage in trading in addition to assisting on the farm.

Domestic Cooking Energy: Generally, the main domestic energy used by households in the communities include firewood and charcoal. Although there is electricity in the communities, however, this is not constant in supply and not affordable by the people for domestic cooking.

Cooking Dynamics in Households: Cooking is carried out mainly by women in the visited communities. Majority of the people use open-fire with three stones as stove for their domestic cooking and heating. Cooking was done either openly outside the house or in kitchen detached from or attached to the main building. The people mainly cook local and seasonal food. The quantity of food cooked by a household depends on the number of people residing in the house.

Firewood collection: majority of the community dwellers collect their firewood from the wild.

7. Outcome of the Reconnaissance Survey

Discussions and Review by the Project Team: After return from the reconnaissance survey, the project team had an in-house meeting to discuss finding and information obtained on the field. Based on the new and actual information, the questionnaire was reviewed with adjustment of some of the questions.

Established Collaborations: Contacts of all the community leaders were obtained during the reconnaissance survey. In addition to meeting the community leaders, collaborations were established with Women and Youth Associations in Akewusola community. The women and youth leaders promised to link to other women and youth associations in other communities in the next visits.

Oversight during the Reconnaissance Survey: One major oversight of the project team during the reconnaissance survey was not taken a picture of the efficient cook stove proposed to be introduced to the communities. When the community leaders and dwellers asked for this picture, the Principal Investigator promised to produce copies for each of the project team and would be when coming for the actual data collection.

Meeting with Community Leaders



Left: The Principal Researcher addressing Local Leaders on Project Goal at Akewusola Community. Right: Explanation of the Project Goal to the Community Leaders, Women Leaders, and some Household Heads at Akewusola Community

Buildings and Local Amenities in the Communities



Left: Untarred and Rough road leading into the communities. Right: Central Mosque at Akewusola Community.



Left: Central mosque, and electricity line and transformer at Oha Meje. Right: Central Diesel generator at Oha Meje.



Primary School in Oha Meje



Left: Overhead tank for water storage and electric water pump at Akewusola. Right: Community water tap at Akewusola Community.



Typical detached Kitchen at Akewusola Community



Left: A typical open fire cooking in the communities with three stones stove. Right: Open fire cooking at Oha Meje Community.



Left: Local stove attached to a house at Bodu Aare. Right: Local stove attached to a house at Bodu Aare.



Samples of wood displayed for sale at Akewusola Community