

Improved Cookstove Extension Session I. Introduction and Installation

A. Purpose.

The purpose of this session is to raise the awareness of village women concerning the personal and environmental consequences of using biomass fuel in traditional cooking systems, to introduce the improved cookstove, and to demonstrate the installation of the cookstove. By the end of the session, the women should be able to discuss, in concrete terms, the problems associated with wood fuel use and to properly install an ATTC improved cookstove.

B. Important Information.

Why improved cookstoves?

Improved cookstoves are designed to:

- use less fuel than traditional stoves
- produce less smoke than traditional stoves
- cook faster than traditional stoves

Less fuel means less time spent collecting firewood, less distance to travel to find firewood, and less damage to rangeland.

Less smoke in the kitchen means a more pleasant and healthy environment in which to cook.

Faster cooking means more time to do other things.

Choosing a spot to install the cookstove.

The stove should be installed in a well-ventilated place in order to facilitate air circulation.

The stove should be installed at least one meter from any object that could impede circulation through secondary air holes.

The stove should be installed on a level surface, in order to make cooking pleasant.

Installing the improved cookstove.

The foyer amélioré should be installed in a coating of *âjna* in order to:

- prevent the stove from cracking due to thermal stress
- improve the durability of the stove

A properly installed stove should have the following characteristics:

- mud casing should be 4 fingers thick
- secondary air holes should remain open and accessible
- the top of the mud casing should be level with the top of the stove
- pot rests should remain clear, allowing unobstructed exhaust.

C. Activities.

Guided discussion (with visual aides) about fuel collection and cooking practices.

Purpose

- to create an awareness of the problems associated with fuel collection and cooking with traditional stoves
- to set the stage for the introduction of improved cookstoves

Choice of spot for installation of demonstration stove.

Purpose

- to demonstrate the characteristics of an ideal spot for stove installation

Installation of an improved cookstove.

Purpose

- to demonstrate the characteristics of a properly-installed stove
- to provide women the opportunity to practice the installation of an improved cookstove
- to thoroughly train at least one woman in the village how to install an improved cookstove

D. Monitoring.

The effect of the session should be monitored through the examination of the installation of stoves purchased by village women. This exercise is best done at several times, first after the purchase of initial stoves and periodically thereafter. Monitoring should always be done with the person who installed the stoves, the owners of the stoves, and other women, if possible. Initial stoves examined can be used to demonstrate problems with installation (and maintenance). Later stoves should be used an opportunity for women to evaluate stove installation themselves, under the guidance of extensionists.

Improved Cookstove Extension Session II. Utilization

A. Purpose.

The purpose of this session is to demonstrate to village women the advantages of using an improved cookstove over a traditional cookstove. By the end of the session, the women should be able to make comparisons between traditional and improved cookstoves and to identify the relevance of improved cookstoves to their lives.

B. Important Information.

Measures for assuring fuel economy include:

Fuel Use

- Using only a small amount of wood (not filling the combustion chamber)
- Using dry wood
- Using small pieces of wood rather than large
- Crossing pieces of wood to assure good circulation

Stove Condition/Maintenance

- Assuring that the secondary air holes remain open to facilitate circulation
- Regularly clean soot from exhaust spaces
- Regularly clean ashes from combustion chamber
- Repair cracks in mud casing

Cooking Practices

- Cooking with two pots (minimally to restrict draft)
- Simmering food (after bringing to boil)

Observation women might make about stove performance include:

- Improved cookstoves use less wood than traditional stoves
- Improved cookstoves produce less smoke than traditional stoves
- Improved cookstoves cook faster than traditional stoves

Personal and environmental benefits of improved cookstoves include¹:

- Because the cookstove uses less wood, women can spend less time gathering firewood, thereby freeing time to do other activities.
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- Because the cookstove uses less wood, it improves the condition of forests and rangeland.
- Because the cookstoves cook faster than traditional stoves, women can spend less time in the kitchen, thereby freeing time to do other activities.
- Because the cookstove produces less smoke than a traditional stove, it reduces incidence of eye and lung problems among both women and their children

C. Activities.

Review of installation procedure

Purpose

- to reinforce principles of stove installation introduced in the previous session

Preparation of couscous

Purpose

- to demonstrate the performance features of the improved cookstove
- to provide women an opportunity to use the improved cookstove

Observation of stove in performance

Purpose

- to facilitate and generalize women's observations on the differences between the improved and traditional cookstoves

Guided discussion over couscous lunch

Purpose

- to further generalize observations on the improved cookstoves in a more formal group setting
- to emphasize how these differences translate into improvements in women's lives

D. Monitoring.

Monitoring the impact of this session would be part of a larger monitoring exercise within the context of a stove promotion project. Such a monitoring exercise would measure (1) opinions about the improved cookstoves held by both women who have chosen to purchase them and women who have chosen not, (2) the number of stoves

purchased in the community, as a concrete indicator of opinion, and (3) satisfaction rates, which should give an idea about the potential for continued stove purchases. The purpose of the monitoring exercise would be to identify constraints to stove promotion in order to either modify the stove design or adapt the marketing strategy.

Improved Cookstove Extension Session III. Commercialization

A. Purpose.

The purpose of this session is to begin the process of establishing an appropriate private commercial mechanism for delivering cookstoves to village women. By the end of the session, village women should have established a relationship with the potter serving their area and should have established a system for purchasing cookstoves.

B. Important Information.

Establishing a stove delivery system.

Stoves are sold on a commercial basis by local potters, trained at the ATTC.

Community members must design, with their potter, a system whereby they can purchase cookstoves. Such a system should take into account (1) sales points: the potter himself, designated women in the community, dry goods stores, etc. and (2) mode of payment: cash on the spot, payment through installments, payment in kind, etc.

Qualifications of potters.

The potter has spent xx amount of time training at the ATTC.

An evaluation of his work has determined that the stoves he makes are of sufficient quality.

The potter is now working on his own, although NEF will continue for a limited time to provide marketing assistance.

NEF receives no benefit from the sales of these stoves.

C. Activities.

Introduction of potter and discussion of commercial system.

Purpose

- to facilitate relations between community members and the potter serving their area
- to facilitate the negotiation between potter and community of an appropriate commercial mechanism for cookstoves in the village

Sales of initial stoves.

Purpose

- to satisfy initial demand for cookstoves
- to provide stoves for initial trials, stimulating word-of-mouth advertising

D. Monitoring.

Monitoring the impact of this session would be part of a larger monitoring exercise within the context of a stove promotion project. Such a monitoring exercise would focus on the efficiency and sustainability of the stove delivery system established in the village. The purpose of the exercise would be to identify constraints to satisfying demand for stoves in the village in order to modify the existing system if necessary.