



## **EPCs Awareness Campaigns and Influencing Decision Makers in Tanzania**



Venue for Advocacy Workshop at Dodoma City Council in Mtumba Government City (Photo by TaTEDO-SESO)

# Influencing Decision Makers at Sectoral Ministries of the United Republic of Tanzania

(24 May 2023)

# **Event Report**

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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Tanzania is a country with about 60 million people with most households using biomass fuels as the primary source of cooking energy. Firewood is the most common fuel in rural households and charcoal is the most common fuel in urban and peri-urban households.

TaTEDO-SESO through the component for influencing decision-makers aims to support the governments with policy and strategic advice, such as on sector policies, regulatory aspects, and quality assurance. The goal is to contribute to a wider sector transformation from the lower tier of using firewood, charcoal, kerosene, and LPG to the higher tier of cooking with electricity which is the ultimate clean cooking solution. This not only increases direct benefits for users but also paves the way for low-carbon development paths in line with Agenda 2030 and the pledge to leave no one behind. TaTEDO-SESO team through a component of Influencing decision Makers conducted a workshop with the Sectoral Ministries at the Government City, Mtumba, Dodoma

#### 1.1 Facilitation

The workshop was facilitated by Tanzania Support Programme(TSP) a media company, in collaboration with four stakeholders who work in sustainable clean cooking energy services. These are TaTEDO-SESO, CCAT, SEF, and SESCOM. The following is information about these stakeholders.

- CCAT: Clean Cooking Alliance of Tanzania or Union of Clean Cooking Energy Stakeholders. This alliance brings stakeholders together to collaborate and use various methods to achieve a large increase in the use of clean cooking energy.
- SEF: Sustainable Energy Forum; This is a platform for sustainable energy stakeholders responsible for discussing challenges and opportunities in the sustainable sector and proposing solutions including the widespread use of EPCs.

# 2.0 THE WORKSHOP FOR ELECTRIC COOKING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM SECTORAL MINISTRIES

TaTEDO- SESO through the component of Influencing decision-makers decided to share innovations in the clean cooking sector for cooking by electricity with the policymakers and decision-makers in selected ministries.

#### 2.1 Aim

The aim was to create awareness of EPCs and influence decision-makers and policymakers on clean cooking solutions with an emphasis on affordable and efficient clean electric cooking by using electric pressure cookers (EPCs).

#### 2.2 Venue

The workshop venue was the Mtumba City Council Hall located in the Buildings of the City Council, Dodoma.

### 2.3 Participation

The workshop was attended by 51 participants categorized into High Officials, Policy Makers, and Staff Interested in Clean Cooking from Sectoral Ministries and their agencies. The ministries and organizations represented were the Ministry of Energy, The Ministry of Industries and Trade, the Vice President's Office, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, the Ministry of Finance and Planning, the President's Office-Regional Administration, and Local Governments, Rural Energy Agency (REA), Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Agency (EWURA), Power Utility (TANESCO), and Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS). Other stakeholders came from other ministries and Dodoma City Council, but this cadre came for awareness to understand more about clean electric cooking services.

## 2.4 Methodology

### 2.4.1 Logistics

The logistics of this workshop were performed by the media and event company called Tanzania Support Programme started on the 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2023 by going to different selected sectoral ministries for invitation and meeting with ministries officials, The company was involved in the selection of venue and undertake all logistics of getting human resources and facilities for demonstrating eCook in the Government City, Mtumba Dodoma.

#### 2.4.2 The Workshop

The workshop was held on 24 May 2023. The specific activities carried out that fit into the advocacy of clean cooking by using electricity were the presentation of papers and plenary discussion. The team presented papers on the Clean Cooking Situation in Tanzania, the efforts, and initiatives for developing clean cooking in the country, and recommendations for clean electric cooking to the government through sectoral ministries. These were meant to promote clean electric cooking and enable participants to get an opportunity to get information about electric cooking by using a highly efficient SESCOM Electric Pressure Cooker from the TaTEDO-SESO team.

# 2.4.3 Clean Cooking Appliances Exhibition

TaTEDO-SESO hired facilities and exhibited Electric Clean Cooking Appliances (Electric Pressure Cookers) at the City Council Buildings. The TaTEDO-SESO promoted EPCs through awareness materials (brochures, calendars, banners, etc), clean cooking publications, and highly efficient cooking appliances (EPCs) for promoting and selling to the ministries' staff and other potential customers.



TaTEDO-SESO Staff During eCook Demonstration (Photo by TaTEDO-SESO)

# 3.0 PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP WITH SECTORAL MINISTRIES

# 3.1 The Workshop with Officials from Sectoral Ministries on Clean Electric Cooking

#### 3.2.1 Opening Session

TaTEDO -SESO Chief Executive Officer, Eng. Estomih Sawe welcomed all participants and explained purpose of the workshop for sectoral ministries is related to issues of finance and tax issues and raising awareness of electric cooking appliances and other policy issues that will arise through this workshop.

The workshop of 24 May 2023 was opened by Mr. Rashid Masuwe (Deputy Permanent Secretary) from the Ministry of Industries and Commerce.

#### 3.2.2 Paper Presentation

# i). Clean Cooking Energy Situation in Tanzania (by Sawe E.N., TaTEDO-SESO)

Several previous efforts to move people in the communities from biomass to other clean energy have been made. Still, 85 percent of Tanzanians are using firewood and charcoal as fuels for cooking. Most of those people (about 90%) are using traditional stoves with a thermal efficiency of 10%. According to the Energy Access Situation Report (REA and NBS)

2020) about 63.5 percent of households in the country depend on firewood as fuel for cooking while 26.2 percents of households depends on charcoal using traditional metal stoves with a thermal efficiency of 15 percent. Only 10 percent of people in Tanzania are using other fuels such as LPG (5.1%), and 3 percent are using electricity for cooking.

# **Effects of Currently Cooking Energy Fuels Used by the People**

The use of energy that is not clean, has many negative effects on development, the economy, and society in general (negative social economic impacts)

#### Some of these effects include:

- More than 33,000 Tanzanians lose their lives every year, this is approximately 100 Tanzanians every day die because of indoor air pollution (Global Burden of Disease Study Report, 2016-International Health Metrics and Evaluation)
- More than 450,000 hectares of forests are lost every year (>1000hk daily) for firewood and charcoal harvesting.
- This contributes to the production of carbon dioxide that leads to global warming which is against the Paris Agreement (2015) and Country NDC.
- Water sources are drying up and drought conditions are seen in several places.
- The lack of rain has affected agriculture, animal husbandry, and electricity production. This also affects soil erosion and causes loss of biodiversity.
- A long time is spent searching for cooking energy.
- Mothers and girls waste a lot of time looking for firewood and charcoal.
- They experience various effects including being attacked by wild animals, and possibly being raped by unkind people.
- They lack time to study for themselves thus affecting their education.

According to the World Bank Report and the Government of Tanzania on cooking energy (2012) it was estimated that the charcoal business, which is almost informal, generates an income of more than 2-3 trillion shillings from 2.3 million tons of charcoal per year. Since the business is informal, it was estimated that 235 billion shillings were lost as government tax. This shows that in the current situation, the possibility of losing a lot of money and the said effect has increased significantly.

According to the reports, if deliberate measures to control the situation are not taken, the effects of the use of wood and charcoal are estimated to double by the year 2030.



eCook Demonstration in progress (Photo by TaTEDO-SESO)

# Why is Success in Clean Cooking Not Satisfactory?

- Policies, strategies, budgets, investments, and their implementation were not given enough priority for developing cooking fuels.
- Little awareness of the existence of alternative cooking energy for stakeholders (policymakers and decision-makers, citizens, and entrepreneurs).
- Small capital for entrepreneurs that would enable them to produce and invest in this sector.
- The availability of those appliances is low (the capital to import or manufacture many is not available).
- Standard equipment and technology are available at high prices that people cannot afford.
- Traditions, habits, customs, perceptions, and inappropriate cultures that people are reluctant to change.
- Limited capacity to deliver standardized cooking equipment to end users.
- Poor quality of some cooking equipment in the market.
- Absence of repair services when stoves are damaged.



Paper Presentation by TaTEDO-SESO staff (Photo by TaTEDO-SESO)

### ii). Efforts to Promote the Use of Electricity for Cooking by Shukuru Meena

- To solve the problem of clean energy for cooking, there have been various efforts including studies on the efficient use of electric cooking appliances.
- TaTEDO-SESO has been collaborating with local stakeholders (SESCOM, TAFORI, CCAT, SEF, TANESCO, TAMISEMI, REA, minigrid developers, financial institutions, and various groups of entrepreneurs to contribute to the success of those efforts and research activities.
- TaTEDO SESO has also collaborated with foreign stakeholders such as Global Leap, various industries, various experts in the world involved in clean cooking energy, the European Union (EU), and the MECs program sponsored by the British Government.
- Similar efforts are being developed in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Rwanda.

The studies on the use of electricity for cooking aimed to understand traditions, habits, cultures, customs, the type of food cooked, cooking time, how to cook food, and the amount of energy used. Those studies and technological changes have proven without a doubt that electric cooking is possible and is safer, cheaper, and cleaner than all other energy and technologies. Cooking with efficient electrical appliances is the correct, sustainable solution for households, institutions, entrepreneurs, and the nation. Cooking with efficient appliances such as an electric pressure cooker (EPC) is a solution that saves energy more than 85 percent of the money, time, health, and the environment.

The studies have continued to give us more insight into the use of energy and technology at the household level (it has been revealed that more than 90 percent of Tanzanian food can be cooked with EPC.

# **Research Findings**

The studies have shown that:

- Cooking with charcoal uses a lot of energy; 6 times more than cooking with gas, and 10 times more than electric cooking using an efficient electric pressure cooker.
- With efficient cooking appliances such as an efficient electric pressure cooker (EPC), you will be able to cook all meals for less than 2 units of electricity per day equal to TZS 708 for National Grid electricity users, at a standard tariff of TZS 200 for a low tariff "lifeline tariff."
- Cooking methods can be a great stimulus in the efficient use of energy and thus reduce the use of electricity from 2 units to 1 unit per day.
- The average cost of cooking all meals with a standard electric pressure cooker is TZS 21,900 per month for the standard tariff and TZS 6,000 for the low tariff "lifeline tariff".
- Food cooked in a standard electric pressure cooker has much better nutritional value than that cooked on gas and charcoal.

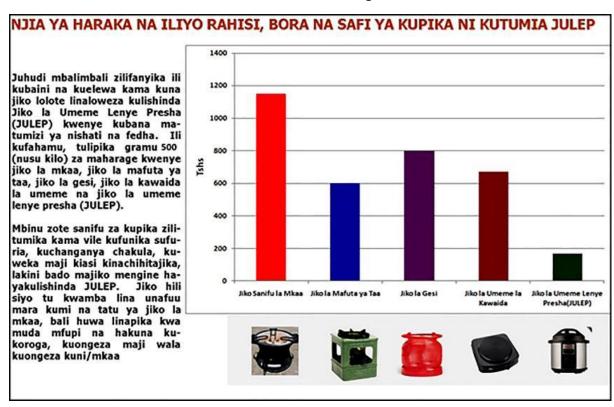


Chart Showing Costs for Cooking 0.5Kg of Beans by Different Appliances (Chart by TaTEDO-SESO)

### **Efficient Electric Pressure Cooker**



SESCOM Electric Pressure Cooker (Photo by TaTEDO-SESO)

- An EPC is an appliance that cooks using the heat and pressure of steam that builds up in a pan.
- It is a stove that gives the users the ability to use the energy they have in their home.
- This is an appliance that uses very little electricity to cook food in a short time and preserve nutrients. It uses a little electricity to generate heat and pressure, after which it cuts the electricity.
- This appliance has a special cup that is used as a measure of the volume of food cooked and water.
- This EPC is accompanied by other equipment that helps the recipes to be standardized, efficient, and with high hygiene.
- SESCOM's 6-liter EPC is enough for a household of 5-8 people.
- It uses conventional electricity; it has 1000 watts, and the required electricity is normal (220-240V), Frequency 50/60Hz, and it has a special pot.
- Efforts continue to achieve the availability of EPCs of different sizes for use in households with many people and places of business.
- This appliance is easy to use and standardized and saves more than 85% of the time, money, and energy.

#### **Characteristics of an Electric Pressure Cooker**

- There are different types of stoves in the market that are not standardized.
   The SESCOM Electric Pressure Cooker has been proven internationally and by users to be efficient and usable,
- It has an efficiency of more than 80.5% and does not lose heat,
- It is built for durability and lasts for a long time more than 8 years if used correctly.

- It is safe, it has more than 14 sensors to control the safety of the user, including "sensors" of pressure and temperature.
- It can cook different foods in different ways through boiling, frying, baking, poaching, and steaming.
- It uses very little electricity (less than 2 units for the whole day = TZS 708 or TZS 200 depending on the tariff of where the user)
- It is easy to use and does not require management (Automatic control knob)
- It is easy to clean (stove, pan, and accessories).



SESCOM Pressure Cooker Promotion Leaflet (Photo by TaTEDO-SESO)

The first winner of the international competition "Global Leap Award Competition 2020" and received a certificate of the first winner for the quality of medium-sized EPC appliances (4-7 liters).



Global Leap Competition Certificate (Photo by TaTEDO-SESO)

# iii). Efforts for Achieving Widespread and Sustainable Use of EPCs by Jensen Shuma, TaTEDO-SESO)

Mobilization and awareness creation of various stakeholders including the government to gain awareness of the presence of this appliance.

- Meetings and various discussion forums
- Participating in exhibitions, various governmental workshops, private institutions, religious, and development partners (EU, UN, WB)
- Using mass media such as TV, radio, and social networks to create awareness of EPCs.
- Achieving the distribution of more than 6,500 EPCs to date in various parts of the country
- Efforts have also distributed EPCs to other countries (more than 1,000 EPCs have been supplied to DR Congo, Uganda, Kenya, and Zambia.
- Creating networks of more than 80 sales agents to facilitate the distribution of EPC (Dar, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Arusha, Pwani, Bukoba, Mwanza, Lindi, Mtwara, Tabora)
- Providing professional, technical services and ensuring the availability of spare parts (spares and after-sales services)
- Keeping statistics of EPC users, which have shown users to stop or reduce the use of other cooking fuels including charcoal and gas.
- Households that use EPC have saved money, time, and health and made it easier to cook different foods.

- Prepare various documents about the use of electricity for cooking,
- Undertaking cooking diary studies for comparing electric cooking with other energy, etc
- A book that shows various recipes for Tanzanian food using EPC (Tanzania eCook Book) which is an EPC step-by-step user guide.
- Preparing a guide to teach technicians how to repair EPC.
- Continue with research and understanding of marketing systems, stakeholders, drawbacks, and recommend measures to ensure the availability and widespread use of standardized electric pressure cookers,
- Providing training on the use of EPC to various users and agents.
- To build close relations with factories that make EPCs in China and India and various experts in the world of clean energy for cooking.
- To find capital to achieve the supply of EPCs.
- Achieve the availability of large EPCs for institutions at reduced costs.

We thank the British Government through the MECs program for starting and developing these efforts on a large scale. We also thank the Government of Tanzania, and the European Community through UNCDF for supporting the ongoing efforts.

### Opportunities in the Use of Electricity for Cooking

- Political will in the clean energy sector has increased.
- Thanks to the Government, the ministry, and its executives for the enthusiasm and the steps that are being taken regarding clean cooking energy.
- The government's efforts to develop infrastructure and distribute electricity in cities and villages should go hand in hand with the motivation to use electricity for cooking (more than 40% of Tanzanians have electricity at home)
- The sources of generating electricity and having enough electricity have increased,
- The use of Solar PV electricity, at the household level will increase the use of EPC.
- There is an opportunity to use "solar battery-supported power hubs" to increase the cooking time with electricity "backups".
- The TANESCO should start a special program of motivation for the public about cooking with electricity.
- TANESCO will increase its income as a corporation (about TZS 2 trillion per year)
- Save a lot of foreign currency to import cooking energy from abroad.
- Greater possibility of benefiting from the carbon credit business
- Government guidelines to use renewable energy in public institutions with 100-300 students.
- EPCs with a volume of 40 litres and more can be used in institutions.

- It reduces the budget for firewood, charcoal, and gas (Some institutions spend TZS 5m per month for cooking energy)
- The use of electricity for cooking will provide an opportunity for the environment to be preserved, and forests to continue to flourish.
- Water resources positive climate change and healthy community.

# Opportunity: A Varge EPC for Institutions and Food Business Enterprises

- Large EPCs for the use of institutions and businesses such as schools, restaurants, and hotels are important for saving budgets and time in cooking.
- It can cook enough food for more than 50 people at the same time.
- Trials for a 40-liter EPC have been conducted.
- Negotiations with factories to produce large EPCs are ongoing.

# Recommendations of Stakeholders to Policy and Decision Makers in Sectoral Ministries

- Along with various ongoing efforts made by the government in supplying electricity, deliberate efforts to integrate electricity and cooking efforts are needed to reach 80% of households that use clean energy for cooking by 2033.
- The opinion of the stakeholders for the ministry is to continue to give great inspiration and priority to ensure that electric energy becomes reliable in the country and provide education to the public in the states about the importance of abandoning unclean cooking fuels.
- The government and private media should inspire the public through large national programs in order to educate ordinary citizens and understand and change attitudes, behaviours, traditions, and customs towards clean electric cooking energy.
- Ensuring that EPCs are available in large quantities and at low cost to rural areas.
- The Government and stakeholders from financial institutions to create an enabling environment that will allow people with low income to get EPC on concessional terms.
- To build capacity and enable women's groups, and entrepreneurs to be able to lend to each other through social groups.
- The ministries should create a room to achieve the implementation of the vision and the national strategic plan for clean cooking energy that is prepared fully and as early as possible.
- The stakeholders are encouraging the Government to prepare and implement a strategic plan for cooking with electricity as it is now for our neighbouring countries of Kenya and Uganda.
- The government to achieve various opportunities including the stakeholders of clean cooking energy to continue to provide adequate education at various levels.
- Decision Makers and Policy makers to thoroughly understand the concept of electricity and cooking and develop and implement policies and strategic plans that will help EPC to be widely and sustainably used.
- The Government to control the illegal entry of non-standard stoves, and their existence, and manage national and international quality standards, this will

- ensure the safety of the user and the certainty of the value of his money (TBS, FCC, TRA, and others will be involved).
- The government to create an enabling environment that will lead to the establishment of factories to produce EPCs in the country.
- Capital, expertise, and money are needed to produce, import, and distribute EPCs. This will help to increase the availability and reduce the costs of EPC "availability & affordability" and contribute to the increase of employment and industries.
- The government should make efforts to obtain expertise from countries that produce or have expertise in making these appliances and teach young people in the country to start assembling them and finally produce them.
- The government should encourage the Government to combine efforts to distribute electricity to the people concurrently with the motivation to use that electricity for cooking.
- The Government through the Electricity Corporation TANESCO has programs to connect its customers and provide them with EPCs.
- Establishing a "special tariff for cooking with electricity", to attract many citizens to use electricity.
- TANESCO to introduce an "on-bill financing model" and enable customers to pay credits little by little through this financial model".



TaTEDO-SESO Staff Discussing Clean Cooking Issues with Participants (Photo by TaTEDO-SESO)

#### 4.0 PLENARY DISCUSSION

The plenary session was in the form of provision of comments, opinions, and questions as follows:

#### **Questions**

- What have you achieved from when you started to disseminate the electric pressure cookers?
- The main issue on electric cooking is to change the chronic mentality of people and fears they have about cooking with electricity, what actions are you taking to ensure people are changing their attitudes and the mentality that cooking with electricity is not affordable?
- The EPC is the new technology for cooking. It is our advice that awareness campaigns are needed everywhere in the country, especially in areas with electricity. Similar workshops are also needed for the effective transition of people from biomass to electric cooking.
- Most of the representatives in this workshop are decision-makers and policymakers. What policy measures do you prefer that should be included in the national energy policy and other energy-related policies and strategies?
- Are these technologies affordable for many Tanzanians who are in rural areas?

# **Contributions/Comments from Participants**

- EPC is one way of leveraging the drudgery of women in cooking. It is a way to empower
  women and make a difference in their local communities. All participants should
  spread messages in their ministry and community to inspire people to adopt this
  technology,
- Awareness of EPC is very important to most Tanzanians, a large section of the population still does not understand this technology and its benefits to their domestic life,
- Research should be done on financing mechanisms, which will bridge the affordability gap for low-income users.
- The Ministry of Energy and other stakeholders after the National Clean Cooking Conference in Dar es Salaam, has developed National Strategies relating to clean and eCooking. We, policy, and decision-makers must avoid delays in launching and implementing the strategy similar to other previous national documents because we are denying our people the benefits of clean cooking in their lives.
- Cooking with electricity was a fear for everybody in the communities of Tanzania. For them, it was impossible to use electricity for cooking. People have electricity in their households but cannot afford to use it for cooking. EPC has changed this impossibility into a possible opportunity for households connected to electricity. The main task is to find appropriate methods for availing this notion to the majority of Tanzanians who are using biomass energy for cooking and moving them slowly to clean cooking solutions.

TaTEDO-SESO, CCAT, and SEF team replied to those questions by saying, TaTEDO-SESO in 2018 started these efforts with Dar es Salaam, Region. We later expand to Morogoro, Kilimanjaro and Dodoma. These efforts have managed to avail EPCs to more than 6,000 households. With regards to changes in the people's mentality, TaTEDO-SESO is continuing with the promotion and awareness creation of EPCs to people we have been able to reach with meager resources, we received from different sources. We appreciate the support we received from the MECS Programme of the United Kingdom.

There are several policy measures required to be included in the National Energy Policy and ongoing strategies. These include special cooking electric tariffs, tax reforms for clean cooking technologies, including clean electric cooking in the system of supplying electricity to households in the country, etc.

When we started these efforts we thought, EPC was an appliance for medium and high-income cadres in the community, but with time we have realized that even low-income cadres in the community can get EPCs through social groups and their relatives in the urban areas. We promoted EPCs in two villages of Singida called Saranda and Londoni, and more than 20 people bought those appliances. There are more than 20 social groups that have acquired EPCs in the rural, Kilimanjaro Region. Therefore, with time both urban and rural populations will benefit from these appliances, especially in 40% of households accessing electricity in the country.



Workshop Participants Testing the Food cooked by EPCs. (Photo by TaTEDO-SESO)

#### 5.0 NEXT ACTION STEPS

The following are action steps brought forward by participants of the Clean Electric Cooking for sectoral ministries:

- To follow up with the Ministry of Energy and Prime Minister's Office on the completion and officiating of the National Clean Cooking Strategy (2022-2027) (MoE),
- To work closely with Power Utility (TANESCO) and EWURA to find out how eCook will be mainstreamed in their electricity billing system (TANESCO),
- Find out the possibility of tax reforms for highly efficient electric appliances such as electric pressure cookers (MOF).
- Find out the possibility of including the electric pressure cookers in the carbon credit mechanisms to contribute to the country's NDC (VPO),
- Continue to promote and create awareness among stakeholders in the public through different means to increase aggregate demand for highly efficient electric appliances (NGOs/ Private Sector)
- Search for more resources from different sources to ensure the clean cooking programs will reach all parts of the country (Government/DPs)

#### 6.0 CONCLUSION

The workshop was closed by SEF Chair Mr. Zuberi Mwachula who reminded participants that the purpose of the workshop was to convey messages of awareness and advocacy of ongoing efforts in the clean cooking sector. The workshop has been an ignition point for creating a common understanding for all stakeholders from high levels to grassroots of using affordable clean electric cooking services, The future opportunities will find out the way to further develop started efforts of moving from biomass to electricity in the cooking sector by all stakeholders.

#### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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