

Women Involvement in the Evolution of Energy Briquette Technology in Kenya

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Addressing Gender for Inclusive Development



Introduction

- In sub Saharan Africa over 72% of urban and 98% of rural households use fuelwood for energy
- Need sources of energy for poor in developing countries
- Briquettes are alternative sources of energy produced by compressing combustible materials into solid fuel products of different shape/size burned like wood or charcoal (The Legacy Foundation, 2003)



Raw materials in briquette production

- Agricultural residuals: coffee husks, animal dung, coconut husks
- Tree by-products: charcoal dust/fines $240-360 \times 10^3$ t/yr, sawdust 230×10^3 t/yr, in Kenya
- Municipal waste: organic waste e.g. biodegradable waste paper



Improving briquette presses for easy to use by women



Difficult for women to press
energy briquettes



A women friendly press allowing
water re-use

■ 80 % of the calorific energy for daily survival in
developing countries is provided by women

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Marketing and Utilization



Community
groups

← Chardust Ltd products at Nakumatt supermarket →

Customers

- Chicken hatcheries
- Households
- Hotels/restaurants
- Institutions e.g. schools



Participatory research

Women involved in testing of
cooking qualities of briquettes

Njenga et al. (2009) Community-based
energy briquette production

Recommendations:

- Quality testing of briquettes produced using the women friendly presses vs others
- Strategies for gender equitable access to technical skills, raw materials and space, income, employment for women, men and youth
- Work with women on efficient briquette shapes and sizes, appropriate stoves

Thank You: Addressing Gender for Inclusive Development