

ENERGY FOR ALL

Increasing Access to Clean Cooking

Energy for All Initiative

Energy and human development are clearly linked. Access to modern energy empowers human development, reduces the daily burdens of the poor, creates new economic opportunities, and allows for the delivery of critical services ranging from health care to education. With Asia home to majority of the world's people without access to electricity or modern fuels, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has prioritized its lending in the energy sector to enable access, especially of the rural poor, to modern energy. Established in 2008, the Energy for All Initiative strengthens ADB's support for innovative projects that provide energy access. The ADB-led Energy for All Partnership has also brought together stakeholders to take on energy poverty at the regional level by scaling up innovative, but proven, business-based approaches.

Background

The level of access to clean cooking and modern fuels is far too low in the Asia and Pacific region, with 1.8 billion people still relying on biomass burning despite growing economies and broadening electrification. Across the board in Asia, people who burn biomass for cooking and heat outnumber people without access to electricity. In Bangladesh and Bhutan, more than 90% of the population still burns biomass. Even in countries with high electrification such as the Philippines (87% electrified) and Viet Nam (98% electrified), almost half their populations do not have access to clean cooking. This highlights the challenge developing Asian countries face in replacing fuels, such as wood, charcoal, and dung, with modern options.

ADB's Energy Policy prioritizes maximizing access to energy, especially for the rural poor, and ADB has worked across the region to improve access to clean cooking and modern fuels through a variety of approaches and technologies. ADB has supported biogas, biomass, improved cookstoves (ICSs), and improved access to and distribution of liquefied petroleum gas among others. Here are some examples of ADB-supported projects involving clean cooking:

ADB Support

2009: Quality and Safety Enhancement of Agricultural Production and Biogas Development Viet Nam

This project replicates and scales up an existing national biogas program that provides rural livestock farmers with biogas digesters to safely dispose of animal waste, which is then turned into modern fuel for household use. The SNV-supported biogas program achieved great success, and ADB stepped in to assist in boosting biogas infrastructure while adding a \$19 million credit and subsidy



component to increase access of the poor to these digesters. ADB and SNV's combined efforts and financial assistance will facilitate the installation of 40,000 biogas units by 2015, while expanding the overall reach of the program will enable 16 of Viet Nam's 63 provinces to benefit from biogas digesters.

2011: Harnessing Climate Change Mitigation Initiatives to Benefit Women

Lao People's Democratic Republic

This \$2.7 million technical assistance (TA) project will build on existing ADB investments and nongovernment organization (NGO) interventions by piloting a model to develop low-carbon projects with gender-equality benefits and, in addition to productive industries, demonstrate how climate financing can provide benefits to women for their contributions to greenhouse gas reductions. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), this TA project will be anchored by SNV's Improved Cook Stove National Program. The project will promote women's increased participation in the ICS production chain (production and marketing), allowing them to benefit from profits of sold ICSs. Other goals include improving local air quality and respiratory health, and reducing the amount of black carbon released into the atmosphere.

2011: Capacity Building for the Efficient Utilization of Biomass for Bioenergy and Food Security in the Greater Mekong Subregion

Greater Mekong Subregion

This \$4 million TA project will support the development of a subregional framework for bioenergy development. Specifically, it will support the development of at least 10 pilot gender-responsive investment models in Cambodia, the Lao PDR, and Viet Nam. These technologies will include, but will not be limited to, biogas, ICSs, biochar, and an inclusive supply chain of certified biofuel and organic products. Well aware of the problems that have arisen from massive biofuel plantations in the past, this TA project emphasizes bioenergy development without compromising food security.

2013: Rural Energy Project

Cambodia

Through \$6.11 million in grant funding provided by the Australian Agency for International Development and administered in partnership with GERES, a French NGO, this project will support the promotion of the Neang Kongrey ICS as an alternative to traditional stoves. At least 12 traditional cookstove producers will be supported in their ICS production and toward self-sustaining ICS use and production. The project will promote the use of up to 90,000 ICSs that promise higher fuel efficiency (more than 20% higher efficiency compared with that of widely used traditional versions) for rural users.

Partnerships for Development

For ADB, forging partnerships with a diverse group of institutions is crucial in addressing the risks and challenges facing the region. Development challenges of scale—such as ensuring universal access to energy—cannot be addressed by any single organization or country. Partnerships mobilize resources (financial, human, and others); leverage knowledge; meet unique needs for highly specialized development projects; and make aid more effective throughout Asia and the Pacific.

ADB is always seeking new partners to support inclusive, environmentally sustainable growth and development in the region.

Energy for All Partnership

The ADB-led Energy for All Partnership brings together governments, entrepreneurs, project developers, financial institutions, communities, and other stakeholders to find regional scale solutions to energy poverty. The partnership focuses on identifying tested, sustainable business models for energy access; replicating them; and scaling them up for greater benefits.

The partnership supports working groups that focus their efforts on specific access to energy topics. The partnership's working group on improved cookstoves is led by GIZ, while the one on domestic biogas is led by SNV.

For more information, contact

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