



Sustainability action · Project Climate Change

Improved Cookstove Programme – Cutting Carbon in Lao Kitchens, Laos

The project contributes to sustainable development in Laos by providing households with improved cookstoves that boost their standard of living and reduce deforestation in the region.

Project

The aim of the Laos Improved Cookstove Programme is to build a more inclusive cookstove market in Laos by providing healthier and more affordable technology. This is achieved by enhancing the performance of all of the stakeholders in the value chain: producers, retailers, testing agencies and users. The four components of the program are:

- 1. Standards and Labelling** – Establish technical standards, testing standards, and a certification and quality labelling program for improved cook stoves;
- 2. Producer Support** – Provide support to existing improved

cookstove producers to raise quality and consistency to meet standards and obtain the Quality Label and optimize production to minimize costs;

- 3. Promotion to End-Users** – Promote improved cook stoves to users, based on the Quality Label;
- 4. Promotion to Retailers** – Promote improved cookstoves to retailers and provide them with incentives to actively increase sales.

The project is truly contributing to sustainable development in the country by providing both urban and rural areas with access to the improved cookstoves. Local producers are also reaping the benefits of a higher penetration rate and receive training on how to make stoves that are more efficient. As a result, the project creates new employment opportunities for local entrepreneurs and technicians and households are saving on fuel costs and breathing cleaner air.

Checklist	Additionality and permanence	Validated	Transparency	Annual CO ₂ -reduction	Social and environmental benefits	Marketing material
Project 301 894	According to the rules of the Gold Standard	By TÜV NORD CERT GmbH	Provided by the Markit Registry	75,000 tCO ₂ e	As documented in our database	Pictures available



Location

Laos is one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia with a heavy dependency on biomass for cooking. Around 53% and 89% of the population use wood and charcoal for cooking respectively. This dependency places a huge strain on the forests and the country has already suffered from a significant loss of forest in the last two decades. Using firewood for cooking also has serious health implications, as traditional cookstoves generate hazardous smoke. The World Health Organisation estimates that 2,600 people die prematurely in Laos every year from indoor air pollution. The fuel-efficient cookstoves are distributed throughout all cities and villages in Laos, ensuring that local socio-economic and environmental conditions are improved over time.

Project achievements

Socio-economic impact

- Households throughout Laos save on fuel costs and free up money that can be spent on education and health care: users save USD 2 per month on fuel purchases.
- The improved cookstoves are less smoky and more efficient, which improves the cooks', typically women and children, quality of life: users save an average of 30 min per day on cooking and are less exposed to hazardous smoke.
- The project creates employment and builds capacity throughout the supply chain, i.e. in manufacturing, distribution, retailing, quality control and project management.

Environmental impact

- The project contributes to an estimated annual emission reduction of 75,000 tCO₂e.
- Deforestation in the area is significantly reduced and biodiversity is preserved, as the improved cookstoves require 20 per cent less wood than traditional cookstoves.

Gold Standard

