



IMPROVED COOKSTOVES FOR RURAL FAMILIES BANGLADESH

Improving community life with healthier and more efficient cookstove technology



A majority of Bangladesh's rural population use traditional, high emission stoves associated with health and environmental risks. Introducing fuel efficient cookstoves to communities is improving livelihoods by reducing smoke related health impacts, and cutting emissions, cooking time and wood fuel collection costs.

The Context

Of the 160 million people in Bangladesh, 90% of the population use traditional “three-stone” stoves for cooking. These stoves produce large amounts of smoke, carbon monoxide and carcinogens. Women and children are largely most affected with approximately 46,000 dying yearly from respiratory diseases and eye and skin infections from exposure to indoor air pollution. Moreover, the rapidly expanding population and heavy reliance on biomass have put pressure on Bangladesh’s limited forest resources.

The Project

This project distributes inexpensive, improved cookstoves to rural districts in Bangladesh. To date, approximately 40,000 stoves have been set up. They reflect traditional cooking methods, but burn fuel more efficiently and are designed to draw off smoke and toxins, thus creating cleaner indoor air for women and children. Up to 50% less fuel is required to cook the same amount of food.

The Benefits

As the new cookstoves give off fewer air pollutants, health conditions improve for users and CO₂ emissions are reduced. A reduction in fuel costs and time needed for wood fuel collection means that women and children in particular have more time to spend on generating an income or attending school respectively. This project also gives rise to employment opportunities for cookstove technicians, assistants, office staff and other related jobs in Bangladesh, increasing capacity development through training and workshops. In addition, the programme reduces pressure on remaining forest reserves in Bangladesh by requiring much less of the scarce wood resources.

The stoves are marketed under the name “Bondhu Chula” meaning friendly stove.



Gold Standard



40,000 families

provided with cheaper, cleaner cooking methods, contributing to improved livelihoods



5,000 entrepreneurs

involved in the manufacture and distribution of the stoves, boosting the economy



50 %

less fuel is needed to cook the same amount of food



8,910 tCO₂e

on average saved annually by reducing cooking smoke and fuel requirements, contributing to climate change mitigation

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: GHG Emission Reduction through use of Bondhu Chula (Improved Cook Stoves) in Bangladesh

UNFCCC/markit/VCS link: https://mer.markit.com/br-reg/public/master-project.jsp?project_id=103000000002047 | **UNFCCC/markit/VCS ID:** 2047 | **GS ID:** 3112