south pole

BETTER COOKSTOVES FOR BETTER HEALTH BANGLADESH

Transforming lives and saving forests with efficient, healthier cooking technology

This project transforms Bangladeshi kitchens by distributing improved cooking stoves. These more efficient stoves lower greenhouse gas emissions, alleviate pressure on nearby forests and reduce woody biomass resource overuse. They also limit the amount of health-damaging, indoor air pollution caused by traditional stoves, and improve overall community wellbeing.

The Context

Traditional "three-stone" cookstoves are prevalent across Bangladesh. They feature a mud-built cylinder with three raised upper ends on which to rest a cooking pot. The gap between the raised ends and the pot forms a flue gas exit, but also reduces heat transfer. Traditional stoves thus demand lots of woodfuel, which drives deforestation and produces harmful indoor smoke.

The Project

This project utilises carbon finance to distribute otherwise unaffordable improved cookstoves to Bangladeshi households. Adjusted combustion chamber dimensions and more effective air flow in the new stoves improves heat transfer, while still suiting traditional cooking habits. Revenue from the sale of carbon credits funds the project's on-the-ground operational costs and subsidises stove prices to suit household budgets. Local entrepreneurs trained by the project proponent market the stoves in locations across Bangladesh. When purchasing a stove, users sign a Sales Agreement stipulating the project proponent's rights to the generated carbon credits in exchange for the subsidised price and ongoing stove maintenance.

The Benefits

The more efficient stoves reduce heat loss and require half as much firewood to cook. The project thus reduces global emissions and eases pressures on Bangladesh's forest ecosystems, improving local biodiversity. Bangladeshi children and mothers now have better health due to reduced indoor smoke – a key cause of childhood pneumonia and respiratory disease. There are also employment opportunities available to local people, who can work as cookstove technicians, assistants, office staff, and in other project-related roles.

The improved cooking stoves are available in two sizes to suit household needs; one or two pot, and two styles; domestic and non-domestic – the latter featuring slightly larger dimensions suited to tea stalls, street food vendors and small restaurants.

437,000
healthier kitchen environments
achieved before 2017, due to reduced indoor smoke with improved cooking stoves

50,233
tCO_2e
mitigated on average each year by replacing traditional stoves with improved cooking stoves

50%
less firewood
needed to fuel the improved cooking stoves, reducing deforestation pressures on Bangladesh's forests

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

Official name: Improved Cooking Stoves in Bangladesh | **UNFCC link:** https://cdm.unfccc.int/ProgrammeOfActivities/poa_db/SE7XIMKF8NYVOTL16BW3U45C9ZDGAP/view | **UNFCC ID:** PoA 4791