



Dec.
2017

SIX MONTHS REPORT ON SMARTD IMPROVED COOK STOVES PROJECT

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DATE:

31/01/2018

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1.Introduction

SMARTD introduced Improved Cook Stoves programme as a way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, burden on biomass and smoke from traditional cookstoves (Paola) and three-stone fires (open fire). Our programme had been encouraging communities to participate in self-help developments activities, but now the new programme proposes distributing stoves based on business principles of seller-buyer approach, where SMARTD will procure and facilitate the logistics of transporting the stoves to the beneficiaries, while the beneficiaries will buy the stoves at fixed price of M1,150.00 at its final destination.

The stove type distributed is Save 80 model C without pots and the wonder box. The reason being that it had been learned from the CDM pilot project that stoves with accessories was too expensive for our farmers hence the new model had been designed in such a way that pots are made to be optional. With this model households can use any other pot they are having in the house.

2. Procurement of the stoves

A total of 1000 stove units had been paid for with Solar Lights. This stove are at the Solar Lights warehouse for assembly and after assembly they are transported to Ha-Sekake warehouse for distribution. These stove are transported to Ha-Sekake in units of 125.



The first batch of 125 stove in Ha-Sekake warehouse

3. Marketing of the stoves

While still waiting for stoves to arrive, a prototype stove was given to SMARTD by Solar Lights for demonstrations and marketing. Demonstrations had been done at Ha-Raene and Qhoalinyane in Cluster F covering thirty villages, Ha-Mphuthela, Ha-Seqhoke, Ha-Kojoana, Ha-Phafoli in cluster A, Ha-Mosi and Motse-Mocha in cluster E. Demonstrations were done through public gatherings in some villages and house to house demonstrations in others. It is during this marketing stage where explanations on how the stoves operate, payments procedures are all explained to households.



SMARTD field officer marketing the stove in Qhoalinyane

4. Distribution of the stoves

Delay in shipment of the stoves to Lesotho had cause a huge delay in distribution. Stoves were with Solar Lights in October and they had to undergo the assembly process. The first batch of 125 stove units arrived in Ha-Sekake in November. During the months of November and December it was not easy to sell the stoves as it was already festive time and most households who had registered for stoves did not buy because of the pressures of the festive season. This being the case not much stoves were distributed, only 77 stoves had been distributed. However, registered households which failed to buy in December promised to buy in February after they are done paying school fees for their children, this means from then things will be back to normal. Stove distribution had been done within and outside area of operation. Stoves had been

distributed in the following villages: Ha-Kujoana, Ha-Seqhoke, Ha-Ntoahae in Cluster A, Ha-Semethe, Sekhalabateng, Kebakile in Cluster F, Ha-Mosi, Motse-mocha in Cluster E and Malimong and Ha-Ntoane outside area of operation. Before a household can get the stove participation contract between SMARTD and the concerned stove buyer is signed. This contract has terms and conditions of participation.



A happy farmers during stove distribution.

5. Monitoring of stove usage

Monitoring of stove usage had been carried out with households new in stove project. Monitoring had been carried in the villages of cluster A, that is Ha-Kojoana, Ha-Mphuthela and Ha-Seqhoke. In these villages, all stove users had been interviewed. In all these interviews, it had been visually confirmed that the stoves are operational and in use. Stove users are using the stoves for cooking and water heating and they are still using fuel wood for cooking and water heating even after the stove. Analysis reveal that 60% of the respondents are using the stove at least once every day while 40% of the respondents showed they use the stove on weekly basis (on average they use the stoves 2 to 4 days a week, twice everyday).



SMARTD staff during stove monitoring

6. Ensuring regular payments

Since distribution of the stoves is fairly new to new stove users, no one is behind the payment schedule. Everyone in this new project had contributed her M100.00 after the down payment. This means to date payments are still going as expected. However, since from experience Baseline Enumerators know that households will in one way or the other fall behind the expected payment schedule, plans on how to ensure regular payments are already in line. The plan is that in each village where the stoves are in use, there should be a committee which meets every month and one person elected to remind stove users for payments, he/she is responsible for collecting monthly payments of the colleagues, after all payment are collected he/she should inform Baseline Enumerators to come and get the money to the office. Should any households fail to pay in two consecutive months then the elected member should inform the office so that reminder can be made to the concerned household. Both manual and electronic ledger recording

households payments are developed. After the manual ledger, then this information is updated in an electronic ledger. Electronic ledger helps SMARTD to easily detect defaulters and take action against them.

7.CHALLANGES

One biggest challenge the programme is facing in this reporting period is the delay in shipment of the stoves. This shipment process had caused problems in the whole plan after shipment, this means our distribution period, collection of repayments from stove users and monitoring periods will have to be revised as they are all affected. An extension of two months for distribution is required. However, after distributing all the 1000 stove units time will still be needed for collection of repayments and for monitoring.