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**ECOWAS INITIATIVE ON CLEAN, SAFE, EFFICIENT AND
AFFORDABLE COOKING ENERGY SOLUTIONS**

**ECOWAS Regional Stakeholder Workshop on the Development of
National Cooking Energy Action Plans**

11-12 August 2014, Banjul, The Gambia

WORKSHOP REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministry of Energy of the Gambia and the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) with the support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BLMFUW), and the Governments of Austria and Spain organized the 2nd Regional Stakeholder Workshop on the Development of National Cooking Energy Action Plans, in line with the initiative of the West African Clean Cooking Alliance, from 11-12 August 2014, Banjul, the Gambia.
2. The objective of the workshop is to share information and to promote a dialogue on clean cooking solutions. The workshop provided opportunities to:
 - Share best practices and challenges on national clean cooking activities within and outside the region;
 - Discuss the integration of clean cooking into national energy policies and strategies and the establishment of a national cooking association;
 - Discuss and share planning tools on preparing national cooking action plans that promote clean, safe, and efficient cooking for economic growth and improving environmental and social conditions;
 - Discuss and validate the elements of the framework on a national cooking action plan for the Gambia.
3. The workshop was attended by at least 80 participants from the ECOWAS region, WACCA partners, the international community and participants from The Gambian ministries of energy, forestry and the environment, private sector, standards bodies, and civil society organizations. The list of participants is attached to this report as Annex 1.

II. OPENING SESSION

Mr Demba S. Bah, Deputy Permanent Secretary- Ministry of Energy of The Gambia delivered the welcoming remarks. In his speech, he gave a background to the objectives of the workshop and hoped the 2-day deliberations will lead to the development of a National Action Plan for The Gambia which will pave the way for tackling the challenges of the low access rate to modern energy services, especially cooking energy and admonished the participants to come up with an action plan for clean, safe and efficient cooking. This was followed by the keynote speech given by Mr. Mahama Kappiah, Executive Director of ECREEE, who reminded the participants about the current energy access situation and the measures undertaken by the ECOWAS Commission, including the establishment of WACCA and the holding of this workshop in Banjul. He urged the participants to pay particular attention to the deliberations so as to take with them tools that would be useful in developing national cooking energy action plans. In delivering her speech, Dr Andrea Reikat, Coordinator GIZ-ProCEAO in Burkina Faso recounted the activities her organisation is undertaking

to promote access to modern and affordable energy in the West Africa sub-region. She hoped that the workshop would give the Gambia, the opportunity to develop an appropriate national action plan for clean cooking. The honourable Minister for Forestry and Environment, Climate Change and Water of The Gambia- Hon. Pa Ousman Jarju, in his keynote speech, reiterated the need for the people of The Gambia to take advantage of the available renewable energy potentials and called for capacity building and awareness raising in curbing the menace of woodfuel use to the people and the environment.

The opening speech was delivered by the Hon. Dr Edward Saja Sanneh, Minister for Energy of The Gambia. He recalled the past efforts made at national and sub-regional levels to address the issue of low accessibility to clean, safe, efficient and affordable energy. By so doing, the Minister reiterated the need for everyone to support the laudable efforts of ECREEE to, once again, address this problem. He hoped the end of the deliberations will lead to a concrete national action plan for the Gambia, paving the way for the people to emerge from the persistent use of traditional biomass.

III. EXHIBITION

Within the framework of the Stakeholder Workshop, an exhibition was organised. FIVE (5) exhibitors showcased practical and innovative products, technologies and services from the Gambia and the West Africa region.

IV. AGENDA

The concept note and Agenda is attached as Annex 2 to this document.

V. CONDUCT OF DELIBERATIONS

Within the framework of the Gambia National Cooking Energy Action Plan stakeholder meeting, the following topics were discussed in a group session:

1. State of the art in the Gambia:
 - Stoves
 - Producers
2. Who can contribute what to scale up production and dissemination?
 - Private sector
 - Public sector
 - NGOs
3. Sub-regional networking
 - Stove production
 - Fuels
 - Testing and standards

VI. VALIDATION OF ELEMENTS OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE GAMBIA NATIONAL COOKING ENERGY ACTION PLAN

The elements of the framework for the Gambia national cooking energy action plan were discussed by the delegates during the workshop. The following elements constitute the framework and basis for the development of The Gambia national cooking energy action plan. **The key elements of the National Cooking Energy Action Plan framework include but not limited to the following:**

- Undertake a comprehensive country-level study to establish a baseline and to determine the nationally appropriate actions for cooking energy;
- Formulate or review policies for the establishment of a conducive environment for scaling up improved cooking devices and technologies in The Gambia;
- Establish standards and labels to promote a level playing field for stakeholders in the demand and supply value chain in the sector
- Training to support national action plans, addressing human capacity bottlenecks in cooking fuel supply as well as market introduction and usage of improved cooking devices and fuels;
- Awareness raising and sensitization activities on the uses and benefits of efficient, alternative and modern cooking fuels and devices for both domestic and productive sectors;
- Innovative financing mechanisms to support the mobilisation of funds from Commercial and Investment Banks, Micro-financial institutions, Public-Private investors and carbon finance for scaling-up successful business models.
- Gender specific interventions in the cooking sector
- Establish an independent national coordinating body dedicated to promoting clean cooking solutions in The Gambia
- Promote research and development on clean cooking (academic and research institutions)
- Facilitate knowledge sharing of best practices and collaborations among countries in the sub-region, especially with Senegal.

The participants stressed the importance of cooperation at the regional level and provided comments on the draft framework action plan which are listed below. The document was thereafter validated after the incorporation of the comments. In adopting this national draft framework action plan, the participants recommended to elaborate and coordinate The Gambia's national cooking energy action plan with activities to be undertaken on the regional and other national levels. The action plan should consider the main recommendations and outcomes of the discussions in this Gambia national action plan stakeholder workshop.

VIII. CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing remarks were delivered by the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy of the Gambia – Mr. Demba S. Bah and read on his behalf. In his remarks, Mr. Bah, on behalf of the Hon. Minister for Energy thanked ECREEE for choosing the Gambia to host the workshop. He also thanked the participants for their valuable contributions during the workshop and indicated his conviction that the outcome of the workshop would contribute to clean, safe and efficient cooking

energy in the Gambia and the region. He wished all the participants a very safe and pleasant journey back to their respective destinations.

DONE AT BANJUL THIS 12TH DAY OF AUGUST 2014

Mr. Demba S. Bah

Deputy Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Energy

THE GAMBIA

VOTE OF THANKS

THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE ECOWAS REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL COOKING ENERGY ACTION PLANS STAKEHOLDER MEETING HEREBY EXPRESS THEIR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE GAMBIA FOR THE CORDIAL AND WARM HOSPITALITY ACCORDED THEM DURING THEIR STAY AND ESPECIALLY THE EXCELLENT WORKING CONDITIONS THAT FACILITATED THE SUCCESS OF THE MEETING.

Annex 1
List of Participants

Annex 2
Workshop Concept note and Agenda