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Energy-Gender-Technology-Climate Change Nexus

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RE-Thinking the Role of Energy Technology for Women's Empowerment
6 May 2015



CTCN
CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE & NETWORK



ENERGIA
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ON
GENDER AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY





Content

- Brief introduction to ENERGIA
- Gender-energy-climate-change nexus
- Women's empowerment through energy access
- Case: Biogas Support Programme (Nepal)
- Closing remarks – Policy is also important





A perspective on ENERGIA

- ✓ Set up in 1996 as leading institutional base for mainstreaming gender into the energy sector in developing countries
- ✓ ENERGIA is hosted by ETC Foundation, an NGO in the Netherlands
- ✓ Direct presence in 13 countries in Africa and 9 in Asia through National Focal Points organizations
- ✓ Reaches out to more than 5000 practitioners in Africa, Asia, Latin America and PICs
- ✓ Vision: Women and men have equal and equitable access to and control over sustainable energy services as an essential human right to development





Women are part of the solution

GENDER-ENERGY-CLIMATE CHANGE NEXUS





Gender-energy-climate change nexus

- Energy choices → CC → impact on ♀ and ♂
roles and responsibilities
extreme weather events → displacement
Coping strategies are gendered
 - Gender → low C path → reducing CC
- How to walk that path?





Gender analysis of climate change

- Identifies impacts linked to roles and responsibilities
 - cash crops ♂; subsistence crops ♀
 - fuel provision ♀ - unless commercial ♂
- Overall conclusion: climate changes exacerbates existing problems
- Provides insights into coping strategies
 - ♂ migrate & have better level of assets
 - ♀ displaced; increased vulnerability in fuel collection (energy forgotten commodity in camps)
 - ♀ stay put – lower level of assets; livelihoods drawn from natural resources





Women & climate change – not victims but part of the solution

- Recognise women's strengths:
 - community social networks
 - indigenous knowledge
 - self-help groups
- Addressing women's weaknesses (contributing to women's empowerment):
 - access to credit
 - familiarity with modern technology
 - knowledge of market mechanisms
 - time poverty
- But these are not issues specific to climate change





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WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND ENERGY ACCESS



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Women's empowerment and energy access

1995 Beijing Platform for Action defines women's empowerment as: giving women greater equality with men in terms of

(i) the division of labour

evidence – men get more involved with household tasks when clean energy powers labour saving devices

(ii) creating more and better life chances for women

evidence – clean energy enables income generating opportunities

(iii) giving them greater control over their bodies.

Evidence – tangible, long-term involving other factors





Solar home systems are part of energy access but can they empower women?

Meet **practical needs**

- Related to essential household activities (not income)
- Convenience and comfort
- lighting improves working conditions at home

Meet **productive needs**

- Allow women to produce more and better products
- Safer, cleaner, more comfortable working environment
- Activities during evening hours possible
- Creates new business opportunities as part of energy value chain

Can address **strategic interests**

- Relate to women changing their position in society.
- Help gain more equality with men.
- Increase feelings of safety (lighting outside)
- Opening horizons through radio, TV and internet



Energy Technology for Women's Empowerment



Women's empowerment: women in the energy value chain

- Women are more than users of energy technologies/services
- Women can make good sales agents
 - They understand women's practical needs and preferences
 - They can enter places men sometimes cannot enter
- Women as users well positioned to inform what makes a good design of products
- Existing businesses can be entry points
- Women are keen to increase their income
- Women are keen to learn new skills





Women need a helping hand

- Enhance women's entrepreneurial and technical skills – but remember restricted mobility and time constraints
- Recognise that cooperative models of working together are often women's chosen way of working
- Access to credit
- Sensitise men to see that women's empowerment is positive development





Photo Wocan
<http://www.wplus.org/projects/wplus-pilot-project-nepal>

Empowering women by breaking the mold – women entering non-traditional employment

BIOGAS SUPPORT PROGRAMME (BSP): NEPAL





Special women-focused masons training programmes

- **Affirmative actions to encourage women as masons**
 - **Special training (skills/ confidence/ refresher)**
 - **Special incentives**
 - **Gender sensitive posting**
 - **Ensuring conducive atmosphere: child care, trainings closer homes**
- **Award for best mason/supervisor/entrepreneur [women and men separately]**
- **Field tested promotion material**
- **Reaching potential women to become masons through women mobilizers.**





BSP:Nepal – Objectives and Outcomes

- **New Quality objective: To make sure that at least 90% biogas users (male & female) are able to operate the biogas plant**
- Norms on women's participation (50%) in user trainings
- Inclusion of new gender indicators at programme level
- 94% of biogas plants functional





BSP: Nepal – Objectives and Outcomes

- **50 women's cooperatives mobilized to provide biogas loans**
- **Nine women owned biogas companies and a large number of women masons**
- **Biogas supply side functions a viable and practical career option for women**





Closing remarks

POLICY IS A KEY ENABLER





Assisting women walking along a low-carbon path Policy Implications

- Gender disaggregated data throughout project cycle;
gender sensitive criteria & indicators
*No data - no visibility; no visibility – no interest; no interest
- no action*
- Women's participation & inclusion in policy making related
to energy & climate change –
 - needs development of women's capacity to participate and men's
capacity to create spaces for women's contribution
- Displacement due to extreme weather events – making
energy carriers part of the strategy





THANK YOU FOR LISTENING AND YOUR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Resources available on line at: www.energia.org

