

INFORSE EAST AFRICA ZOOM WEBINAR
E-Cooking in East Africa?
FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2020
AT 11:00 – 12:30 HRS EAT

**Electric Pressure Cooker as a Clean Cooking Option
for East Africa:**

***A ‘Silver Bullet’ to Reduce Dependence on Solid Fuels
and Associated Indoor Air Pollution or is it Just
‘Chasing the Wind’?***



**Session Moderator: Mr. Richard Kimbowa, the East Africa
INFORSE Chairperson**

Presentations followed by Discussion:-

- 1. Dr Jon Leary (MECS Research Associate (Loughborough University) - *Overview of the Modern Energy Cooking Services MECS Programme in East Africa***
- 2. Mr. Estomih N. Sawe (Executive Director and CEO) - TaTEDO, Centre for Sustainable Energy Service (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania) – *Tanzanian Experience***
- 3. Ms. Agness Mwikali Kalyonge, Kisambara Ventures Ltd - *Kenyan Experience***
- 4. INFORSE – Mr. Gunnar Olesen - *International views & Closing Remarks***

The purpose of the webinar is to cross-examine e-Cook as a viable clean efficient cooking option for East Africa based on experiences from practitioners in East Africa and beyond.

Guiding questions for the Webinar:-

- Given the socio-economic indicators for East Africa and the current cost of electricity, what opportunities Electric Pressure Cookers (EPCs) offer vis-à-vis other existing options?**
- To what extent are the national and regional energy policies ripe to promote efficient electric cooking from national grid and mini-grids and other sources of electricity in order to benefit of the majority low-income households for poverty reduction and addressing other development needs?**

Amidst all the technological innovation of the 21st century, 2.6 billion people around the world still have to use open fires to cook their meals (60 Decibels.com, February 2020). The pervasive use of solid fuels with traditional cook stoves results in high levels of household air pollution, extensive daily drudgery to collect fuels and manage fires, and serious health impacts. Currently, 1.8 billion people have access to electricity but still cook with biomass (CLASP, 2020). Biomass cooking causes not only harmful environmental impacts, but also results in poor health outcomes. It is estimated that smoke from cooking fuels accounts for nearly 4 million premature deaths annually worldwide.

Therefore, there is a need to accelerate the uptake of clean cooking, the existing solutions, and also try different new *sustainable* approaches. The UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 also calls for the world to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”. In East Africa, a number of approaches have been promoted including efficient biomass stoves and ovens with chimney at household and commercial levels, solar, wind as well as geothermal energy options for electricity generation.

Use of efficient electric cooking appliances such as pressure cookers, is gaining ground as an approach to address the above challenges. In particular the promising complement of mini-grid electricity to the traditional central grid, which can help countries meet electricity access targets faster and, in some cases, more cost-effectively. By 2040, an estimated 140 million rural Africans could get electricity from mini-grids, requiring more than 100,000 additional units to be built (Lily Odarno, 2017).

Contact: Mary Swai (mary.swai@tatedo.or.tz) and Richard Kimbowa (rkimbowa@ugandacoalition.or.ug)
WEB sites: www.tatedo.or.tz, www.ugandacoalition.or.ug, www.inforse.org/africa/EASE.htm