

# Solar Cooking Activities in Zimbabwe

**Norman Mhazo - Development  
Technology Centre  
University of Zimbabwe**

# Project Activity Lines

- **information service (responding to letters, individual inquiries, phone calls )**
- **performance analysis of CookKits** (in collaboration with the Renewable Energy Program in the faculty of engineering)
- **manufacture and promotion of fireless cookers**
- **Organizing demonstrations**

# Current Work

- **exhibitions at shows and Science & Technology Symposia**
- solar lunches
- acquisition of other types of cookers and related technology
- manufacturing of fireless cookers
- collaborative work with Humana People to People
- **monitoring and assisting Business Units**
- **local demonstrations in schools**
- **compiling new recipes from users**

**FOR MORE INFO...**

**List location or contact for specification (or other related documents) here**

# Successes

- improved image of solar cookers as an alternative cooking method as local council by-laws against cutting down of trees get stiffer
- developed a technique for solar cooking sadza- a thick porridge from maize flour
- improved handling of plastic bags
- use of CookKit for pressing linen
- established 4 functional BUs out of an initial 8
- developed a recipe book

**FOR MORE INFO...**

- distributed 15,000+ CookKits since 1996

List location or contact for specification (or other related documents) here

# Constraints

- **General shortages of resources for extension activities**
  - reduced home visits
  - failure at times to attend invitations
- **Limitations of the panel cooker capacity and construction material**
  - cardboard material viewed as a cheap product
  - less durability compared to other models e.g. parabolic & box cookers

# Way forward.

- **consolidation of collaborative work with other organizations**
  - Mukuvisi Woodlands
  - Humana People To People
- **Spreading solar cooking technology to occupied commercial farms**
  - reduce the rampant cutting down of trees
  - provide access to safe drinking water for farm workers as original water reticulation systems have been vandalized

**FOR MORE INFO... use of solar cookers for pasteurization of water in urban areas -Municipalities are failing to provide safe drinking water due to shortages of forex to procure chemicals**

List location or contact for competitive analysis (or other related documents) here

# Way forward (Cont---

- **Training programs in the manufacture of fireless cookers**
- **Continued training and encouragement of solar cooks to use cookers regularly**
  - the art gets perfected with practice
  - new recipes are developed
- **Introduction of different designs of solar cookers to meet different user desires**
- **Introduction of other energy saving technologies to complement solar cooking**

## Way forward (Cont---

- **Continued review of CookIt prices**
- **Adoption of the CookIt as a science teaching aid in schools**

# Vision 2010

- **DTC would work towards reduced levels of cutting down of trees and waterborne diseases as a result of increased and improved usage of solar cookers and other related technologies.**
- **Advocate for a government policy on development of renewable energies through the newly formed department of Science and Technology Development**

# What works in the promotion of solar cookers

- **Participation of the government**
- **Involvement of local leadership**
- **Promoters should be well trained, have interest, be enthusiastic practitioners-teach from experience and have patience.**
- **The truth about what the solar cooker can do and what it cannot do must be made clear**
- **Users must be encouraged to practice and experiment with solar cookers**

# Stocks, Sales & Costs

- **CooKits(cooker + 2plastic bags) in stock = 500**
- **Plastic bags = 500**
- **CooKit sales in 2003 = 909**
- **CooKit sales in 2004 = 114**
- **CooKit price in 2003 Z\$ 5,000**
- **CooKit price in 2004 Z\$10,000 (USD 1,79)**
- **Plastic bag price 2004 Z\$ 2,000 ( USD 0.36)**