



Domestic Biogas Newsletter

SNV

Connecting People's Capacities

Issue 3 – August 2010

Dear reader,

We are very pleased to present the third issue of our SNV Domestic Biogas Newsletter and we hope you will enjoy reading these brief reports.

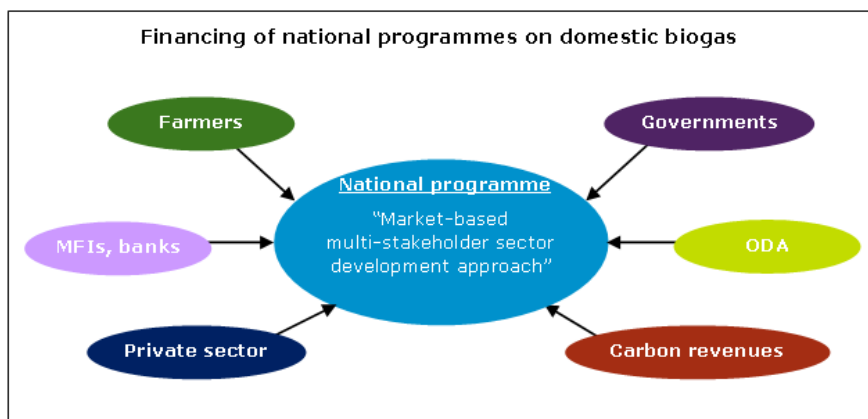
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International biogas workshop on national programme financing

10–12 November 2010, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The use of domestic biogas plants around the world is increasing, in terms of both plant numbers and geographic coverage. More than 40 million plants had been installed by the end of 2009, most of them in China and India, enabling around 200 million people to access benefits like clean household fuel and fertiliser. Equally important, more countries are embarking on market-based national domestic biogas programmes and starting to develop biogas sectors.



To make the best use of both public and private resources and to prevent unnecessary failures, we need to share knowledge and experience. SNV is organising an International Workshop on Domestic Biogas from 10–12 November 2010 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The theme is financing national programmes on domestic biogas in Asia. What are the short and medium term funding sources? What are the opportunities to establish

a regional basket fund? Is carbon financing truly feasible? Which investments are required from farmers? To what extent can national and local governments provide financial support?

The workshop will be organised by SNV and the National Biodigester Programme (NBP) in Cambodia, and funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through its Energy for All Partnership, GTZ and SNV. A total of 75 participants, mainly from Asia, are expected to take part in the workshop.

For more information, please view the Workshop's announcement [here](#)

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Ashden Award 2010 for domestic biogas programme in Vietnam

Tackling the twin problems of dangerous cooking practices and untreated animal waste



SNV is one of six international winners of the prestigious Ashden Awards 2010 for its work in tackling the twin problems of dangerous cooking practices and untreated animal waste. In partnership with the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, SNV launched a programme to convert the waste into energy via household biodigesters. The digesters provide clean, reliable energy for cooking and heating. They reduce the health and environmental hazards associated with wood fuels, not to mention the animal waste. Since 2003, over 80,000 have been installed, benefiting more than 400,000 people. CO2 savings amount to around 167,000 tonnes per year. The winners of the Ashden prize were announced in July at a ceremony in London hosted by Sir David Attenborough.

[Click here for more information on the Ashden Awards website](#)

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Over 35,000 new biogas plants constructed in the first half of 2010

African programmes start to deliver

In the first half of 2010, more than 35,000 biogas plants have been installed through the country programmes supported by SNV. The table provides an overview of the unofficial numbers for this period. The largest numbers were realised by the Biogas Support Programme (BSP) in Nepal and the Biogas Programme (BPII) in Vietnam. The National Domestic Biogas and Manure Programme (NDBMP) in Bangladesh ranks third, followed by the National Biodigester Programme (NBP) in Cambodia. Some of the new programmes in Africa, such as those in Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya, are gathering pace as well. Based on predictions for the second half of 2010, it is expected that the overall production rate of the programmes this year will surpass the rate achieved in 2009 (over 53,000 plants).

Country	Programme took off in	2010 (January to July)	Cumulative up to July 2010
Asia			
Nepal	1992	14,514	219,117
Vietnam	2003	14,447	90,278
Bangladesh	2006	3,242	13,261
Cambodia	2006	1,850	8,207
Lao PDR	2006	425	1,454
Indonesia	2009	214	264
Pakistan	2009	203	303
Africa			
Rwanda	2007	259	693
Tanzania	2009	254	360
Kenya	2009	170	173
Ethiopia	2008	131	259
Uganda	2009	94	134
Cameroon	2009	10	33
Benin	2010	8	8
Burkina Faso	2009	4	5
Total		35,780	334,549

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Tanzania first African country to exceed 100 plants per month

Over 110 units constructed in July 2010 under the Tanzania Domestic Biogas Programme (TDBP)



In July 2010, 113 new family biogas plants were installed in Tanzania, the first country on the continent surpassing the 100 plants per month construction rate. Programme activities are under way in the Arusha, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Dodoma and Coast regions. During the first four years of the initiative, the target is to install 6,750 biogas units, against an estimated technical potential of 165,000 in the country.

The Tanzania Domestic Biogas Programme began in 2007 following a positive feasibility study by GTZ. Tanzanian stakeholders established a taskforce and selected the Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation and Rural Technology (CAMARTEC) as the national agency to coordinate the programme. SNV provided support in 2008 and 2009 to produce a detailed Programme Implementation Document (PID) and to kick-start the implementation phase. Since March 2009, the programme has been part of the [Africa Biogas Partnership Programme \(ABPP\)](#) with Hivos providing financial management and SNV undertaking capacity building services. The ABPP covers six countries in Africa and is funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and SNV.

[Click here to view the TDBP Programme Implementation Document](#)

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China and India show keen interest in Energy for All Partnership

Encouraging missions by Working Group on Domestic Biogas



In April 2010, the Energy for All (E4ALL) Partnership Working Group on Domestic Biogas, led by SNV, completed missions to China and India, gathering significant interest from local organisations in the process. All organisations contacted during the visits showed a medium to mostly strong interest in connecting with the Working Group, especially for networking, learning, innovation and R&D. In addition, some organisations requested financial support towards better programme implementation. China and India have installed about 35 and 4.5 million units respectively. Dedicated professional organisations in both countries therefore represent valuable potential sources of knowledge on domestic biogas and implementing innovation biogas programmes.

The E4ALL Partnership was initiated by the Asian Development Bank and launched in June 2009 as a response to the challenge of regional energy poverty. SNV was invited by the steering committee to lead a Working Group on Domestic Biogas. The objective of this Working Group is to install one million domestic biogas plants in about 15 Asian countries by 2015/2016, providing access to sustainable energy to about five million people.

[Click here to read the mission report to China](#)

[Click here to read the mission report to India](#)

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Bangladesh celebrates installation of 12,000th biogas plant

First biogas union in the country recognised



The National Domestic Biogas and Manure Programme (NDBMP) in Bangladesh has reached an impressive milestone. Since May 2006, the programme has provided 12,000 households with biogas plants, benefitting more than 70,000 people. During Biogas Week 2010, which ran from 28 May to 5 June, the first biogas union of Bangladesh was officially recognised. A biogas union earns the title after having installed 100 biogas plants.

The NDBMP is implemented by the Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) with funding from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and German Development Bank (KfW) and with technical support from SNV. About 30 Partner Organisations (POs) in Bangladesh implement the programme through construction and after-sales service of biogas plants. Most of these POs also provide credit to about 80 per cent of all biogas households.

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Programme in Cambodia receives German financial support

BMZ provides EUR 2.2 million for the period up to June 2012



In early 2009, the National Biodigester Programme (NBP) in Cambodia submitted a proposal for financial support to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany. Based on this proposal and several missions to Cambodia, BMZ expressed its willingness to make EUR 2.2 million available for NBP from July 2010 up to June 2012. This funding will be channelled through GTZ and SNV in Cambodia. It allows the programme to extend to four provinces with high domestic biogas potential. These provinces are situated around the Tonle Sap Lake, an area famous for its biodiversity. Biogas production can minimise the threats to this ecosystem as the demand for fuel wood will decrease. Siem Reap in particular is very promising for domestic biodigester development.

It is the fourth largest province in terms of agricultural output, with approximately 70,000 households owning cattle and/or buffalo and an additional 65,000 families raising pigs. Furthermore, a large part of the population lives in areas destined as Angkor park zone. In these parts the households cannot collect firewood from the forest, but they can keep livestock.

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E4ALL Expert Group on Technical Innovation

Terms of Reference finalised and members to be appointed



The Working Group on Domestic Biogas is setting up an expert group on technical innovation of domestic biogas plants. The group will assess comprehensively the opportunities for technical innovation of all types of domestic biogas plants to reduce overall costs, to increase reliability and to meet untapped market demands.

The current domestic biogas market exists because of livestock farmers who are able to collect animal manure (in combination with toilet waste) every day as feedstock for biogas plants. The market potential in Asia is roughly estimated on 110 million households of which about 40 million already have a biogas plant. To tap this market, three different types of domestic biogas plants have been developed over time: the floating drum, fixed dome and plastic bag digesters. The most popular type is the fixed dome plant, which is constructed in situ by skilled labourers out of conventional materials. Recently, new construction materials like polyethylene and fibreglass have been applied, especially in China and India, to partly or fully replace conventional construction materials. These materials make pre-fabrication possible, reducing the construction/installation time at the premises of the biogas household.

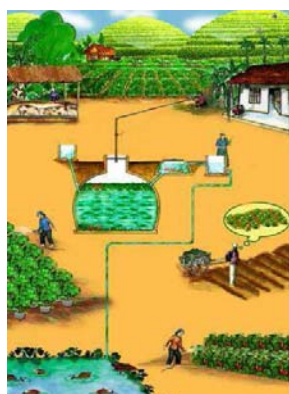
The Expert Group will consist of six to eight members, all qualified and experienced in the construction/manufacturing of domestic biogas plants, with at least one member from both China and India. Financial support will be provided by ADB through its Energy for All Partnership and SNV. Please send the CVs of potential candidate members to Mr. Wim J. van Nes: wvannes@snvworld.org

[Click here to read the final draft ToR](#)

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Feasibility study in the Philippines carried out by SNV and Winrock International

Additional market survey recommended to better assess the niche market



A feasibility study on the domestic biogas potential in the Philippines, financed by the ADB through its Energy for All Partnership and Winrock International, was conducted at the end of 2009. Meetings with different stakeholders were held and field visits were conducted in five provinces.

The feasibility of a domestic biogas programme in the Philippines varies much according to geographical area. In some provinces, only a modest programme for just a few thousand biogas plants will be possible. Among the limiting factors are the low livestock numbers, the incomes of common backyard farmers and the wide availability of fuel wood for cooking. The study concluded that the market for domestic biogas plants in the Philippines is deemed to be a niche market. The consultants recommended a market survey to assess the demand more precisely for some provinces in the Philippines.

[Click here to read the full feasibility study](#)

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For more information about the activities of SNV on domestic biogas, please contact Mr. Wim J. van Nes, e-mail: wvannes@snvworld.org.

For more information on SNV, please visit our website: www.snvworld.org

SNV is dedicated to a society in which all people enjoy the freedom to pursue their own sustainable development. We contribute to this by strengthening the capacity of local organisations.

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