

ENERGY-SAVING STOVES MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy-saving stove

Musoke Simon is from Masaka and among the implementers of the energy-saving stove innovation to the community; he is pro-climate and very passionate about seeing nature in its original form. The innovation of energy-saving stoves was initiated after a baseline study that was carried out and found that many people in the community are using wood for energy. People move for long distances to look for firewood and this has made the wood scarce, this made them resort to cutting down trees for them to get what to use for cooking.

This forced Mr. Musoke and his team to carry out consultations from other farms like the prima collect from Germany and Makerere University that helped him to develop a stove that is low energy consuming hence reducing the impact on the environment through deforestation.

Features of the stove

It has liners made up of clay, clay is more friendly with fire/a good conductor of heat, and is fast in cooking, has a chimney that helps the stove release smoke during cooking; has an angle line which makes it firm and long-lasting, bricks are also made up of clay and this strengthens, has the combustion chamber where briskets are put/wood, air space that allows in oxygen that supports burning and a pot rest that does not allow heat spread out, it only allows heat direct to the saucepan.

Fig 1: Simon left and stove he promotes

Benefits of the stove

It cooks very fast, this is because of that clay liner that absorbs heat and this heat goes direct to the saucepan; it is very durable; minimal accidents can occur during use of the stove compared to



usual cooking stones; it uses less fuel/ wood for cooking; there are reduced effects (respiratory diseases) from the smoke that would occur while using the usual cooking system of 3 stones; limited attack of the surviving trees for firewood hence protecting the environment.

Note: *"Whoever has accessed this stove has saved a lot in terms of wood they would use, the environment is smoke-free, and there are reduced conflicts in families because food is always ready in time. Also, there was a hidden value we didn't expect when rolling out these stoves, and that's roasting, after the cooking, these stoves can properly roast maize, meat, and any other food for roasting just because of the heat that is absorbed in the lining;"* Musoke narrates.

Challenges

- The cooking stove needs to be installed in a house permanently while the communities embrace temporary installments of the stoves that make them not suitable for some of them.
- The materials are scarce yet the demand is high, therefore a few can only access in his locality and therefore we can't supply the big orders
- Private companies (chema stove from Tanzania) have joined in and they are also making energy-saving stoves that are climate smart but not specifically of this make.

Recommendations

Simon encourages the community to adapt to these stoves in order to save our environment from harsh climatic changes that are due to our activities we do ignorantly, all should be pro-environment, such that also our grand kinds can enjoy this pearl of Africa. *Our day-to-day activities have a very great impact on our future so let all be vigilant;* says Simon.

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