



GHACCO 3RD ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

VENUE: GHANA GIRLS GUIDE, ACHIMOTA ACCRA.



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List of Abbreviation

AGM	Annual General Meeting.
CEO	Chief Executive Office.
G20	Group of Twenty
GACC	Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves
GGGA	Ghana Girl Guides Association.
GHACCO	Ghana Alliance for Clean Cookstoves
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation.
HAP	Household Air Pollution
ICS	Improved Cooking Stoves
ISO	International Standards Organization
ISPOCCE	Integrated School Project on Clean Cook Energy
JHS	Junior High School.
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MC	Master of Ceremony
NAMA	National Appropriate Mitigation Action.
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PRO	Public Relation Officer
SDG's	Sustainable Development Goals.
SE4ALL	Sustainable Energy for All.
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.
SNV	Netherland Development Organization
UN	United Nation
US	United States
WEF	Westford Education Foundation, Inc.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

GHACCO Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Thursday January 28, 2016 at Ghana Girls Guide in Accra. The meeting was chaired by Vice Chairperson of GHACCO, Mrs. Sarah Dede Agbey. She renewed the commitment of the board to champion GHACCO objectives within the context of good governance system. A brief message from partners such as Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (GACC), US Embassy and SNV enumerated their respective policy positions and packages they have for the cookstove sector. The members of GHACCO were updated on Clean Cookstoves and fuel Projects such as; Women Awareness campaign, the Ghana Girls Guide project and World Education Clean cooking solution project. Also the financial position of GHACCO was presented to the members by the National Co-ordinator. The board formally introduced and inducted into office, the National Co-ordinator and Program Officer and Ashanti Regional Steering Committee. Feedback and inputs were received from members on issues like; impacts of taxation on raw materials, standardized pricing of cook stoves, research collaborations, cookstove sector investment initiatives, up- scaling production and extension of GHACCO activities to Northern Region among others. The AGM was used to take stocks and evaluate the success and short falls of the GHACCO activities in 2015. Recommendations were outlined to help determine the way forward. A proposed plan to addressed major issues raised from the AGM was written submitted to the board for adoption. The closing remarks acknowledged the contributions of members for organizing a successful AGM. The members were challenged to intensify their hard work to make GHACCO achieve greater heights.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are the new global development agenda adopted for implementation in the next 15 years. These Global Goals are aimed to end poverty, improve health and livelihood, take action on climate change and the environment, and build strong institutions among others. Many existing initiatives including those of cookstove sector introduced by NGOs, governments, private sector, and institutions globally sought to make positive impact on achieving SDGs in the medium to long term. This reinforces GACC position to integrate clean cooking in G20 and SDG agenda worldwide.

It is in this regard, Global Alliance for Clean cookstoves through its initiatives recognized the need to press hard to avert the situation of nearly 2.9 billion people in the developing world including Ghana still use polluting fuels like wood, coal and charcoal to cook and heat their homes. The estimated health, environmental, climate change and economic cost of this continued use of solid fuels is a staggering US\$123 billion annually, is devastating. Also, access to clean and improved cookstoves and fuels still remains limited in much of the developing world including Ghana which has had adverse impact on people's health. It was reported that, each year, 4.3 million people die prematurely due to indoor air pollution. And if status quo remains the same, 57 percent of the world's population will still not have access to clean cooking in 2020.

In Ghana, GHACCO also recognizes the need to make positive impacts on reducing the over 13,000 deaths which occur each year as a result of exposure to the household air pollution (HAP) from cooking, and more than 21 million people are impacted by exposure to HAP each year. This therefore places further priority on leadership of GHACCO to upscale, intensify awareness creation, seek for sustainable funding, accelerate adoption of ICS, strengthen its institution and remove barriers to reach universal access to modern energy use in Ghana.

It is of these reasons among others that, at GHACCO's Annual General Assembly was held has reviewed and appraised the activities and operations of GHACCO, updated members on GHACCO projects, presented financial report for accountability, voted and approved acting financial secretary, received inputs from members and approved decisions. The newly Ashanti regional steering committee was formally introduced to the members. These activities stated above would help to promote partnerships among members of the alliance and other stakeholders to ensure good governance, and synergy in influencing policies. This would help contribute to a vibrant clean cookstoves industry. It also forms integral part of strengthening structures of GHACCO in delivering on its mandates. All these activities, GHACCO believes would contribute to achieving some of the SDGs of improving livelihood, health, environment & climate change and adoption of renewable energy among others.

2.0 THE OPENING SESSION AND WELCOME ADDRESS.



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Thursday January 28, 2016 at Ghana Girls Guide, near Achimota Forest Police Station Accra. It was chaired by Mrs. Sarah Dede Agbey. The other co- chairpersons for the AGM were; Kwesi Sarpong of GACC, Karen Bel of US Embassy, and James Robison of SNV. The MCs for the event; Lilyversta Nyarko and Kenneth Nana Amoateng coordinated program communication activities.

Fig. 1 (Left to Right) Chairperson, Sarah Agbey with, Kwesi Sarpong, Karen Bel and James Robison at the high table of AGM.

The National Co-ordinator, Mr William Horsu, in his welcome address congratulated all members for coming to the meeting and highlighted the purpose of the AGM. He acknowledged the support and contribution received from members and stakeholders over the years in championing the course of GHACCO.

3.0 THE CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE.

The chairperson Sarah Agbey, before delivering her speech acknowledged the absence of the Chairman of GHACCO, Mr Manu who was attending to other equally pressing assignments. In her speech she quoted UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon which stated that: “sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance” It is in this regard GHACCO has been established to catalyze revolution of the cookstove sector with the overriding target to foster adoption of clean stoves by 4 million household and to enhance the distribution of 5 million cookstoves by 2020 she noted.

She reiterated that achieving GHACCO's objectives would have a common purpose to promote the use of clean cooking solutions through adoption of clean cooking technologies. She also enumerated GHACCO activities and projects undertaken which included; capacity building workshops, initiation of fundraising activities, intensification of awareness campaign, participation in International Standard Organization (ISO) conference for developing and implementing cookstove standards among others. It was noted that, GHACCO participated on Nationally Appropriate and Mitigation Action (NAMA) workshop and collaborated with The Gambia to share success stories essential for forming their National Alliance. Finally, members were briefed on INSPOCCE project, success achieved in organizing woodstove festival, the national LPG workshop, and hosting of Country Action Plan in 2014 among others.

4.0 MESSAGE FROM GHACCO PARTNERS.

GHACCO partners such as US Embassy, GACC and SNV delivered their solidarity messages.

4.1 US STATE DEPARTMENT MESSAGE

Karen Bel of US State Department was impressed and congratulated GHACCO for its initiatives in the cookstove sector and improving livelihood. She said “the global commitment of contributing to impacts of climate change reduction can be achieved by greater collaboration”. She indicated the need to integrate key policies deliberated at Paris Conference on Climate Change into GHACCO. It is reiterated that clean cookstove solutions and technology adoption would help to reduce the premature death but she bemoaned its affordability in the country.

It was emphasized that, the US government is very committed to the cookstove sector hence in 2015 year has provided 200 million dollars to support the sector. Also the US established 59 evidence testing centers and 60 million dollars committed to field implementation of its initiatives in the cookstove sector globally. Karen Bel said the US government has also committed 160 million dollars investment fund to support the sector globally and to partner private sector to sustain fight of climate change. Despite US and China generated 40% of global emission, all nations have a role to play in providing technological support to impacts on reducing climate change she emphasized. It was pronounced that, 5 million dollars is available dedicated to the sector to support innovation initiatives, research and development process in the cookstove sector. She concluded by appreciating GHACCO impacts on touching lives and improving livelihood.

4.2 GHANA ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN COOKSTOVES (GACC) MESSAGE.

Kwesi Sarpong emphasized GACC’s commitments to strengthen GHACCO and the cookstove sector in the country. He outlined GACC’s priorities and deliverables in the sector which illustrated; 11 enterprises supply capacity strengthened via management consulting support, working capital & Spark 2.5 million stoves local production capacity, and that 3 million households were reached through awareness campaigns. He also noted that government’s LPG policy and environmental policy would be amended to support the sector. GACC recounted their role in building testing center and successful hosting of the Global Forum.

On the way forward in 2016 for the sector, Kwesi Sarpong outlined the following agenda of activities. This included the need to facilitate the LPG policy legislation and implementation, help to develop progressive standards and labels, increase awareness of HAP burden, environmental impact, potential livelihood and gender benefits among medical practitioners. Furthermore, he said adopting fundraising from; Fidelity, Newmont, Total, Caterpillar, Shell Vivo, and Olam, koko King, Indomie, and Embassies to raise target of \$100,000 by the end of 2016 would be pursued. The second part of 2016 program of activities included; supporting local initiatives like SE4ALL and South-South Cooperation, heightening awareness campaign, gender mainstreaming via

Ministry of Education, enterprise development and finance from the Deutsche Bank. It was also captured that Fidelity Bank Ghana & Deutsche bank is developing instrument that, WEF Grants and training support for women CEO's would be achieved by July 2016.

4.3. SNV MESSAGE.

James Robinson highlighted the 50 years existence and impact of SNV through 38 international collaborations touching more than 12 million people positively worldwide is exemplary. The impact activities of SNV in Ghana he recounted included; the cookstoves sector initiatives, solar energy lighting, and environmental conservation. Mr Robinson admonished GHACCO that more results could only be achieved through advocacy, awareness campaign, policy developments and speaking with one voice. It was noted that through GIZ donor supports, SNV would continue many cookstoves initiatives in countries like; Uganda, Kenya, Ghana and Bangladesh. Mr Robinson also advocated for the growth of Ghana SME sector to grow and optimize capital access opportunities including those in the cookstove sector.

5.0 GHACCO ACCOMPLISHMENTS CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD.

5.1 UPDATE OF GHACCO ACHIEVEMENTS.

The National Co-ordinator underscored the election of a new National Executive Board, impetus to GHACCO. This he said has enhanced administrative capacity of the secretariat. GHACCO now has a temporal office and working hard together to secure multiple funding for GHACCO and raising its image. The inroads achieved on Ghana Girls Guide project of empowering girls as agents of change for clean cooking solutions, and participation in validation of Gambia's country action plan was also trumpeted.

Again he stressed the importance of National Coordinator and Program Officer recruited to coordinate activities of the Alliance, participation in international advocacy and energy-related programs among others. Furthermore, Ashanti Regional Steering Committee elections, capacity building workshops, participation in ISO conference as well as quarterly executive meetings at national level as milestone achievements were captured. GHACCO during the reporting period also witnessed increased membership through membership drive campaigns at national and regional levels. Other GHACCO achievement on synchronized database update of members to facilitate effective communication and dues payments was also highlighted.

5.2 GHACCO CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD.

On challenges confronting GHACCO, he noted that, high taxes on imported raw materials for the production of stoves, and cut in budgetary support to carry out its mandates in Ghana is retarding progress. The challenge of price variations of the ICS brands was also highlighted. The critical need for GHACCO to acquire its own administrative office was emphasized.

The way forward for GHACCO, he said is to continuously dialogue with policymakers, governments and major stakeholders take actions to expand sustainable energy access at the household level specifically the clean cooking energy. Also plans for research on impacts of taxes and seeking sustainable funding for the sector were delineated. GHACCO organizing media workshops to educate media houses on its initiatives to increase awareness for clean cooking and fuel adoption in the country was also proposed. Mr William Horsu noted that, support for the manufactures in up-scaling of clean cookstoves and fuels production remains a priority. Therefore GHACCO intended to intensify collaboration with artisans and manufactures to ensure accurate data collection and reporting.

6.0 THE PRESENTATIONS ON CLEAN COOKSTOVE AND FUEL PROJECTS.

6.1 THE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

The project manager for the awareness campaign, Mr Prosper A. Amuquandoh said the overall objective of the project is to “create awareness about improved cooking solutions to increase the demand for, and sustained use of, Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) to at least, 4,440 women in the Ashanti and Greater Accra Regions”. He explained that, the awareness campaign strategy would train 40 women regionally as ICS Advocates. The ICS advocates would also train 400 women; “ICS Promotes” who would also impact their acquired training to the “ICS User. The training exposed the awareness campaign group to: operations & maintenance of ICS, the health, socioeconomic, and environmental impacts of cookstoves. It also included documentaries on ICS, sales tips, effective messaging, and pitching on ICS.

It was noted that 87.5% of trainees have seen the most compelling reasons; health benefits influenced their decision to adopt the cookstove. The environmental benefits also influenced the 67.5% position of trainees as more compelling reason to use ICS. Finally 72.5% acknowledged socioeconomic benefits as compelling reason for the use the ICS.

6.2 THE GHANA GIRLS GUIDE PROJECT.

The overall goal of the GGGGA project was to influence the way future generations think about cooking practices and encourage them to be agent of change in adoption of clean cooking solutions. The Team Lead noted that “the GGGGA initiative was designed to raise awareness of youth, with a focus on adolescent girls about the negative impacts of traditional cooking practices, and provide opportunities for girls to be part of the change as their own households transition to cleaner cooking solutions”

The project captured a baseline survey for the piloted community of Anyamam. A training materials and literature on clean cooking technologies was developed where twenty rangers were trained to become trainers for the project. Three weeks training for beneficiaries were conducted at Anyaman. Also evaluation of training impacts on rangers and their households/families as well as Anyaman community through interviews was conducted she stressed. The chief of Anyamam, Nene Natenor Abayatey IV and the Chief Fisherman, Nene Raymond Abayatey expressed appreciation for the impact of to their community.

6.3 WORLD EDUCATION CLEAN COOKING SOLUTION PROJECT

The Integrated School Project on Clean Cook Energy (INSPOCCE) program aims at: developing and integrating clean cooking energy information into the Basic Education curriculum of Ghana Education Service. The project co-ordinator, Madam Adwoa Sey said one of the objectives of the project is: “to develop a clean cooking education curriculum that increases the awareness and knowledge levels of 500 JHS students in two schools in Amasaman among others”. The project activities included orientation of project staff/ key stakeholders, orientation of project communities and conduction of baseline survey. She also enumerated project activities carried in the school included: teacher and school administrator training, selection and training of Peer Educators, patrons, and establishment of Clean Energy Clubs among others.

Finally she noted that, the proposed areas of clean cooking concept integration included subjects like Social Studies, Integrated Science and Basic Design and Technology. She concluded that the final deliverables for the project would include an integrated curriculum, teaching and learning materials developed and submission of final project report.

7.0 GHACCO FINANCIAL REPORT.

The financial report of GHACCO as at Thursday December 2015, indicated an income of GH ₵ 198,784.21 with expenditure of GH ₵ 121,156. The activities which accounted for expenditure included: Global Forum hosted which accounted for GH ₵14,200, with Awareness Campaign

expenses accounted GH ₵ 9286. It also included GH₵ 24,975 incurred cost for Consultancy Services rendered to GHACCO, Capacity Building expense of GH₵ 14,725 and GH₵ 57,970 for Administrative/ logistics. The National Co-ordinator noted that, GH ₵ 68,141 remained as cash at hand for GHACCO. About 21% of GHACCO membership failed to pay their dues, 37% made part payment but 41% made full payment of dues.

8.0 INTRODUCTION OF GHACCO STAFF AND ELECTED REGIONAL EXECUTIVES.

The National Co-ordinator Mr William Horsu and Program Officer, Raymond Kusorgbor were formally introduced to members.



The Ashanti Regional Steering Committee members were also introduced; Michael Yao Agyei (Regional Co-ordinator), Julius Ahiekpor (Deputy Coordinator), Michael Kwakye Mensah (Treasurer), Michael Kweku (PRO), and Hilda Manu (Secretary) pledged their support to help GHACCO achieve its mandate.

Fig 2: The board members congratulating the newly inducted GHACCO officers and regional steering committee members into office.

9.0. ELECTION OF FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

Mr Lovans Owusu Takyi was unanimously agreed to serve as acting financial Secretary for 2016/2017. The reason was as a result of candidates did not show up for the election and only Mr. Takyi was present. In view of that, members suggested we postponed the election to our next AGM.

10.0 FEEDBACK AND INPUTS FROM MEMBERS.

Members expressed concerns about high tariffs on cookstove raw materials. They also debated on approaches of implementing universal standardized pricing regime for cookstove brands. Others also expressed disapproval on low publicity of wood fuel as compared to cookstoves. The respond from the chairperson posited that, wood fuel is marketed but the focus is on sustainable use Mr Julius Ahiekpor tasked GHACCO to make all brands of stoves available during training. Madam

Sarah however, admonished manufactures to make their brands available at GHACCO office for training, publicity and for other purposes. They were also tasked to produce and improve on stoves manufactured to meet standards. Mr James Robinson encouraged the sector enterprises to be investor friendly. It was emphasized that, GHACCO would put in place policy to adopt bulk importation of raw material and advocacy for tax incentives for the industry. Mr Julius Ahiekpor asked if Women Awareness Campaign a GHACCO project.

The chairperson answered in affirmative and also confirmed GACC as the funding source for the project.



She gave assurance that GHACCO members would be considered to apply for future projects. Madam Ellen Seldenthuis was coached on benefits of GHACCO having asked about the importance of the secretariat to them. An input submission from a member tasked GHACCO to present financial report in cedis separately from that of the dollar account. Another member also advocated for GHACCO to develop terms of

Fig 3: Some cross section of GHACCO members at the AGM.

reference for future research collaborations. The need to rotate the venue of future AGM to other regions was strongly advocated. The Women Awareness Campaign program extension to Northern Ghana was recommended by Ellen Seldenthuis.

11.0 POST AGM REVIEW MEETING.

The AGM was reviewed to evaluate the entire event with few recommendations given as:

- The board to meet at least a week prior to any AGM to finalize decisions and evaluate adequate preparedness to host the event.
- The need to constitutionally exhaust all procedures for application, vetting and voting for any vacant GHACCO position.
- The board also took decision to monitor and evaluate administrative effectiveness of National Coordinator to operate from Kumasi.
- The need to advertise future GHACCO projects for members to apply. E.g. Women Awareness Campaign Project.
- GHACCO would work on terms of reference to partner research organizations and institutions for future collaborations as source of investment and fund.
- GHACCO to work on documentations to apply for value proposition budget.
- Expenses incurred due to cancellation of Global Forum Donor Trip to be refunded back.

- Proposed Plan for major issues raised during the AGM was designed and submitted to the board.

12.0 CONCLUSION.

The AGM closing remarks acknowledged the presence of all members and stakeholders for their contribution towards making the AGM a success. The members were challenged to intensify their hard work to enable GHACCO achieve greater heights.

Appendix: AGM PICTURE GALLERY



National Coordinator giving presentation at the AGM.



The MC coordinating affairs at the high table of the event.



Koren Bel of US embassy delivering her speech.



The Chairperson answering some questions from the members.



A member making contribution at the AGM.



Some cross section of GHACCO member attentively looking on.



Ashanti Regional Steering Committee Induction into office.



Some participants in group picture after the AGM.