

GNA NEWS ARTICLE:

GHACCO DONATES CLEAN COOKSTOVES AND FUELS TO GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE (GES) FOR EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN AND NATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL



Pic 1: Madam Sarah Agbey (Left) presenting the stoves to Mr. Asare (Right) of Ghana Education service with others looking on.

The Ghana Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and Fuels (GHACCO) an alliance of clean cookstoves producers and advocates in Ghana, has donated an assorted clean and improved cookstoves to the Ghana Education Service (GES) at its national headquarters in Accra to facilitate awareness creation and education on clean cooking in basic and senior high schools in Ghana. The clean and improved cookstoves donated included charcoal based stoves such as Toyola stoves, Envirofit stoves, Gyapa stoves, Man and Man stove, CookClean CookMate stoves, Elsa stoves which use palm kernel shells and pellets, and new cooking bags from Tamale

The items also included 12 packets of Bamboo Charcoal briquettes that replace charcoal from forest. The donation is aimed at facilitating the upcoming cook art competition being organized as part of GES National Cultural Festival in Sunyani from 21st - 25th August, 2016.

Mrs. Sarah Naa Dedei Agbey, the Vice Chairperson of the Ghana Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and Fuels during the presentation indicated that GHACCO is committed to creating awareness among the youth, women and children on the importance of using clean and improved cookstoves for their daily cooking. She said this is important because the use of traditional cookstoves wastes biomass (firewood and charcoal) and also exposes women and children to hazardous smoke emissions having serious effects on their health and which according to the World Health Organization causes over 4 million deaths worldwide and about 13,400 deaths in Ghana each year.

Exposure to smoke from traditional cook stoves and open fires also causes premature deaths and contributes to a range of illnesses such as pneumonia, bronchitis, cataracts, lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, low birth weight, and burns. Reliance on traditional cookstoves for cooking forces women and children to spend many arduous hours each week collecting fuel. Furthermore, the use of open fire cooking and traditional cookstoves (e.g. three stone stove) for cooking increases pressures on our natural resources and contributes to climate change and deforestation

Today, forest growth in Ghana is less than half of fuel wood demand. This makes fuel wood an unsustainable energy option. It implies a huge loss of biodiversity, and major damage to the ecosystem, not only exacerbating the threat to species survival significantly, but also threatening food and water security for the human population, as deforestation increases. This causes land erosion and accentuates drought and flooding.

Mrs Agbey said, clean and efficient cook stoves and fuels, reduce fuel use and exposure to harmful cooking smoke, and have proven potential to deliver a wide range of health, environmental, livelihood and gender benefits, while serving as a worthwhile household investment by reducing household expenditure on fuel that can rapidly offset any upfront costs. Clean and improved cook stoves now exist that save lives, empower women, create opportunities for the poor, and reduce negative environmental impacts. Using less fuel reduces



Pic 2: Madam Sarah Agbey educating on importance of adopting Improved Cookstoves & Fuel.

the time spent collecting it, allowing more time to engage in income-generating activities, educational opportunities, and other important endeavors.

She added that GHACCO and GACC (Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves) in collaboration with World Education International is working with GES to mainstream Clean Cookstoves and Fuels in Ghana Basic Education curriculum. The curriculum project; Integrated School Project on Clean Cook Energy (INSPOCCE) was piloted in Ga West Municipality in the Greater Accra Region and teachers manual have developed. This initiative will help to mainstream into the National Education Curriculum for basic and senior high schools for students and pupils to have practical hands-on experience and lessons on cookstoves.

GHACCO in partnership with GACC, World Education International and Ghana Education Service has begun a campaign to educate school children about the importance of using clean cookstoves. She noted that as part of the mainstreaming initiative, GHACCO donated stoves in support to the upcoming GES Clean cooking art competition festival in Sunyani.



Pic 3: GES officials offloading Improved Stoves and fuels from the vehicle.

Mr. Edward Asare, the Director of Welfare (insert Position) of Ghana Education Service who received the items on behalf of GES expressed appreciation to the Ghana Alliance for Clean Cookstoves & Fuels for the gesture and said GES identifies with GHACCO on the need to educate our children on clean cooking and its benefits in order to protect the children and women from all the health hazards associated with traditional cookstoves and avoid deaths. He said GES is happy to join the campaign and will expedite efforts to mainstream clean cooking into the national education curriculum to effectively educate our youth on clean cooking. He used the opportunity to invite the general public to Sunyani on the 21st - 25th August, 2016 to participate in the GES clean cooking festival and campaign for which the clean cookstoves were donated.

For more information on the Cookstoves and Fuel, contact the Secretariat via: cookstovesghana@gmail.com.