

CLEAN COOKING AND FUELS MAINSTREAMED INTO MMDAS MEDIUM TERM PLAN



The Dutch Government is supporting Ghana Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and Fuels (GHACCO) on the ongoing evidenced based advocacy program funded by Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ga West Municipal Assembly of Greater Accra Region.

The project is dubbed: “Voice for Change Partnership Program”- (V4C) which has energy model that focuses on improvement in climate change, environment and health through reduction on green-house gas emissions by promoting access to clean, and affordable cookstoves & fuels.

Group picture of participants at Ga West Municipal Assembly.

The National Program Coordinator for GHACCO, Mr Raymond Kusorgbor lauded the Netherlands Development Organization SNV for implementing project with the long term policy goal to ensure increased access to affordable, efficient and sustainable energy solution.

This came to the known during stakeholders engagement with the District Planning and Coordinating Unit (DPCU), the Core Management, and Development Planning Sub-Committee of Ga West Municipal Assembly. It was organized by GHACCO few days ago on the need to mainstream issues of Clean Cooking Technologies and Fuels into Medium Term Development Plan of the Assembly. The second day witnessed Chiefs and Assemblymen participated in knowledge sharing workshop to discuss the health, environmental, and economic benefits for clean cooking

Speaking to the Ghana News Agency (GNA), Mr. Kusorgbor indicated that the over reliance on traditional cookstoves encourages deforestation, environmental degradation and climate change. “According the World Health Organization in 2016, over 17,000 lives are lost annually through exposure to Household Air Pollution in Ghana” he revealed. He added that it is as a result of traditional cookstoves and open fire that posed a number of health risks including eye, throat, and respiratory diseases, as well as cancer hence the need to reverse the status.

“The policy intervention is for the Municipal Metropolitan and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to integrate clean cooking into their Medium Term Development Plan” he remarked. He also emphasized that the improved cookstoves & fuels and LPG promotion would create livelihoods for women and youth, promote economic development and open up the district to donor support in the area of clean cooking, climate change, health and the environment.

Mr Kusorgbor appealed to the government to provide incentives to accelerate clean cooking businesses, ie tax and to incentivize financial institutions to lend to clean cooking technology businesses like improved cookstoves and LPG stoves manufactures, the producers of pellets, briquettes, carbonized charcoal, biogel, ethanol and other waste to energy fuel alternatives in the country. Secondly he also appealed for access to clean cooking facilities should be highlighted as a key indicator in the development planning guidelines of MMDAs.

The Head of Planning at Ga West Municipal Assembly, Mr Samuel Lawer thanked SNV and GHACCO for this project with its enormous health, economic and environmental benefits. He expressed their readiness to support the clean cooking project as a policy intervention in the budget planning process. Nii Abonseiku I, the

Abbeey Mantse of Pokuase in Ga West Municipality also expressed his commitment to lobby the course for clean cooking to be integrated into the district medium term plan.