

Stove and Tree Beneficiary Interview

Author: Victoria Forster-Jones



Photo: Ms. Rehema Mgale outside her tembe home

Introduction

Village name:	Nghulabi, located in the Dodoma Urban District
What is your and your husband's name?	My name is Rehema Mgale Divorced
How many children do you have? What are their names and ages?	Angelina (28 years); Msengi (a boy of 12 years); and Sylvester (15 years)
How long have you lived in Manhumbulu?	I have lived in the village for 15 years. I was born here but lived outside of the village for some time.
How did you hear about DODEA and their stove work?	There were some people who were doing training in cooker building, they came to my house, explained the stove to me and I became interested because it uses a small amount of firewood.

Stove type and use

What type of stove do you have?	I have a Lorena. I use it everyday, three times a day.
What type of energy source do you use for:	For cooking I use firewood. For lighting I use a Koloboi [a small kerosene tin with a wick on the end]. For heating I use firewood and for food preservation I use a hot pot, I bought it at the market in Mpunguzi village [Mpunguzi is a neighbouring village to Nghulabi and hosts a market which serves both villages. STT also have projects the village]
a) Cooking?	
b) Lighting	
c) Heating	
d) Food preservation	
Why do you use these types of energy sources?	I use these types of energy because they are easy for me to obtain, they are easy to use and I can light them easily.
Before you had the improved stoves, what were some of the disadvantages of using the x3 stone (open) stove, in terms of health, time, food preservation, and the environment?	Some of the disadvantages were that I experienced problems with smoke [from the three stone open stove]. I would also take a longer time to cook compared to now. I would feel very hot and I was using a lot of firewood, but now I use much less.
Before you had the improved stoves, what were some of the benefits of using the x3 stone (open) stove?	I did not have a choice that is why I kept using the three stone (open) stove. There were no alternatives. The only benefit was that it helped me to cook things.
Now that you have the improved stoves, what are some of its benefits in terms of health, time, fuel use, food	It helps me to save time because I can cook two things at the same time. It also helps me to reduce smoke [inside the kitchen/house] and it reduces the amount of firewood I use. The stove also helps me to

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preservation, and the environment?	preserve food after cooking as I can put cooked food into the Ng'anga ¹ .
Now that you have the improved stoves, what are some of the disadvantages/problems associated with it?	I don't think that there are any problems. When smoke does get inside the kitchen it is because there is too much ash left in the fire-hole, but once I remove the ash the smoke goes.
Fuel collection, consumption and time saving	
How long did it take you to go gather firewood when you had the traditional x3 stone (open) stove?	One bundle of firewood was lasting three days, but now a bundle takes two weeks to finish. <i>[two weeks meaning 14 days]</i>
How often do you go and collect firewood now that you have the improved stove?	I collect a bundle every two weeks.
If having the new stove gives you more time to do other things, what do you do with this extra time?	It gives me more time to go to the shamba <i>[a plot of land often used for subsistence farming or limited agro-crop farming]</i> , or for any journey that I have to make I can leave earlier.
What are the problems of using firewood?	Firewood is difficult to find now because of charcoal makers. For example, if I leave home at 7 am <i>[for collecting firewood]</i> I return home at 10 am.
Energy needs in the village	
What are the energy sources in the village?	Firewood, charcoal, kerosene, biogas, solar <i>[used at the local clinic]</i> , and generators using diesel/petrol [Note: STT research across its project villages has often found that the number of households with biogas, solar or generators are often very low compared to the number of households that rely solely on firewood, charcoal and kerosene] .
How can you get your voice and opinions to the government about your energy needs?	I give my opinion through neighbourhood meetings and representatives there take our opinions to the village government.
How do you find out information about government initiatives to combat the energy problem in your village?	I get information from neighbourhood meetings who get their information from the village government. Information at the neighbourhood meetings is then passed down to the 10 cell leaders <i>[who are village sub-leaders responsible for ten households]</i> .
What have been some of the main environmental changes that you have noticed in your village over the years?	There are changes in development, people are beginning to build good houses now, and the population has increased. However, nowadays the fields available for farming are far away because of the population increases. People are also planting more trees for shade and they <i>[the trees]</i> also help to bring rain.
Recommendations for project improvements	
How would you improve the current	I don't know what can be done to improve it.

¹ An Ng'anga is a heat retention cooker (HRC) made from mud, which forms the main container (as opposed to a basket which is used in the production of the wonder basket HRC). The lining of the ng'anga can be made from plastic 'sulphur' bags (often used in Tanzania to transport cereals and grains to market), while the insulation material consists of dry grass, wood shavings, or millet chaff. An Ng'anga is a local innovation (designed by local women in the village of Ng'anga) and is based on the wonder basket technology promoted by STT. Due to the cost differentials an ng'anga is much more suited to the rural context than a wonder basket because of the low financial inputs required in its production.

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stove?	
Decision making roles in the family	
Who makes decisions in your family about the types of energy fuels you use or buy?	It is me.
Tree planting project	
Have you received tree seedlings from DODEA (STT local partner organisation implementing the projects in the field)?	I did not receive tree seedlings this year because I was not around when they [DODEA] were being distributing.
In the future what do you expect to use the trees for?	I would use them for shade, to build a banda [<i>a bedlike structure which local people make themselves to dry their grain</i>] and for firewood.
What type of trees do you need?	I need neem, eucalyptus, guava, papaya and orange.
What would you do with those trees?	[<i>From the fruit trees</i>] I would harvest the fruit for myself and sell the surplus. I need the neem for shade and would sell the eucalyptus as timber.



All responses have been recorded in the participants own words using Kikogo (the local language of the area).

STT would like to thank Ms. Rehema Mgale for giving us her time and allowing the team into her home to conduct the interview. We would also like to thank Mr. Sudda of DODEA for his assistance in the village during the interview.

Photo: Rehema showing the team her stove and how she uses her Nr'anna