

RNRKS PROJECT COMPLETION SUMMARY SHEET

DATE Sheet Completed: 21 May 1998

Title of Project: Fuel-efficient technology - incentives and constraints to household adoption

DFID Project Reference Number: R6297

RNRKS Programme: Forestry

Programme Manager (Institution): Mr J Palmer, NRIL

Sub-Contractor (if relevant): -

RNRKS Programme Purpose: Purpose 2: Sustainable utilisation and conservation of natural woodlands enhanced

RNRKS Production System: Semi-arid

Commodity Base: Fuelwood and charcoal

Beneficiaries: Staff of the Ministry of Energy and Mining, Malawi and the Forestry Department Malawi Indirect beneficiaries are resource poor households

Target Institutions: Ministry of Energy and Mining, Malawi.
Forestry Department, Malawi
Department of Agriculture, Malawi
Ministry of Information, Malawi
NGOs - CURE and CABUNGO
UNDP environmental programme.

Geographic Focus: Malawi

	Planned	Actual
Start Date:	April 1995	
Finish Date:	March 1998	April 1998
Total Cost:	£115,280	

1. Project Purpose:

To research the factors affecting adoption of fuel-efficient technologies amongst resource poor households in rural Malawi, using a participatory methodology designed to integrate the perspectives of rural people in the analysis and to enable them to communicate these findings to rural energy policy makers. In this way the project will contribute to making rural energy programmes in Malawi and possibly in the region more appropriate to resource poor households.

2. Outputs:

The outputs of the project were:

- Constraints and incentives to the adoption of fuel-efficient technology by resource poor rural households identified and documented.
- Improved understanding of key socio-economic factors underpinning the adoption of fuel-efficient stoves by resource poor households, amongst those responsible for the design of rural energy programmes in Central and Southern Africa.
- Awareness of results and implications of the research by a wider professional audience.

3. Contribution of Outputs to Project Goal:

The research has increased understanding of the ways in which social structures and customary systems determine sustainable resource utilisation and conservation and has provided practical methodologies for exploring energy use within the context of rural livelihoods.

Output 1 - Information on local perceptions of improved stoves, fuel use and rural energy has been obtained and documented.

- fuel wood scarcity is perceived as one problem amongst many faced by poor rural households, not as a separate issue. The interconnection between environmental

problems, poverty and livelihoods is clearly understood by local people, but their priority concerns, for example food security, make addressing longer term environmental problems difficult.

- constraints to adoption of improved stoves include perceptions of fuelwood scarcity, cost of stoves and gender relations (specifically control of household income)
- given the complexity of rural realities, rural energy interventions should avoid starting with narrow single technology solutions.

Output 2 - The project has helped rural energy and forest policy makers in Malawi to understand local perceptions of rural energy.

- rural energy interventions need to be part of integrated approach to addressing local environmental needs and perceptions and with an understanding of locally specific social structures and culture.
- scarcity of fuelwood is caused by many inter-related factors including increased population pressure, land clearance for cultivation and tree cutting for timber. MGM can collaborate with other government departments, NGOs and communities and encourage the sustained production of fuelwood through improving farming systems. There is potential to affect the rural energy situation by interventions in urban areas, with rural industries and with institutions using stoves.
- the research process has demonstrated a practical way of facilitating community research through the integration of participatory approaches and use of video. It has amplified village voices in policy making, directly informing policy makers and enabling them to examine ways to render policies more appropriate to local needs.
- Discussion of the implications of the research for different government departments and NGOs highlighted the need to adopt an integrated and holistic approach to rural problems and development, to establish more direct communication between village groups, local government and NGOs and to support and strengthen existing village committees

Output 3 - The research has developed a practical model for participatory policy making, which has been shared among the collaborating institutions and other government departments, and is of wider professional interest.

- Two village videos were produced as outputs of the research project, entitled "Mudzi Wa Chitimbe Ulankhula" (Chitimbe Village Speaking) and Kulila Kwa Chiling'oma" (Chiling'oma Village Cries). These videos have been distributed in Malawi to a range of government Ministries and departments.
- Further copies of the videos will be distributed in Malawi, the UK and internationally. These, together with the written project outputs, including an article in *Development in Practice*, will be the major means of reaching a wider professional audience.

4. Publications:

5. Internal Reports:

Rural Energy Security: A Literature review 1996

Community Research and Communication on Rural Energy and Environment in Malawi
Phase 1: Fieldwork Report, Pansuwo Village, Nsanje District
Phase 2: Fieldwork Report, Chitimbe Village, Thyolo, District
Phase 3: Fieldwork Report, Chiling'oma Village, Rumphi District

Rural Energy Research Project: Workshop Report - Communities meet Policy Makers. Report of the Final Project Workshop organised by the Ministry of Energy and Mining and NRI, April 1998.

Communities meet Policy Makers - from Institutional Research Agendas to Community Research and Representation, S. Braden and V Nelson, April 1998. Draft article submitted to *Development in Practice*.

Community Research and Communication on Rural Energy and Environment in Malawi. Final Technical Report, DFID Forestry Research Project R6297. April 1998

6. Other Dissemination of Results:

Videos have been distributed in Malawi to the villages themselves and further copies will be made available to NGOs, government departments and other institutions. The Forestry department in Malawi is currently using the videos for extension training.

7. Follow-up Indicated/Planned:

Future research on the potential for participatory natural resource/rural development policy making ways are being sought to build on the capacity developed in Malawi for community research and representation using participatory video.

8. Name and signature of author of this report:

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