

Concept Paper
SAARC Webinar on “Modern Clean Cooking Technologies for Rural Households”
Friday, 18 th October 2024: 1000 – 1200 hrs Pakistan Standard time (PKT)

Background

Present progress on SDG-7, falls far behind, including SDG 7.1: *Universal access to modern energy*¹. As of 2022, Around 2.3 billion people lack access to clean cooking facilities, relying on the unsustainable resources of energy such as solid biomass, kerosene, or coal, as their primary cooking fuel². The household air pollution, mostly from cooking smoke, is linked to around 3.7 million premature deaths a year³. The situation in South Asia is not very different, majority of the rural population depends on traditional energy resources for cooking, that leads to indoor air pollution, and health disparities.

Traditional cooking practices, is among the most pressing issues, particularly in low-income and rural settings. Clean cooking technologies is one of the solutions that can play a pivotal role to address the challenges associated with traditional cooking methods. Improved cookstoves, modern electric & PV cookers, solar cookers, and biogas systems are few examples of innovations designed to reduce emissions, minimize environmental impact, and enhance energy efficiency.

Introduction

Clean cooking refers to sustainable fuels and modern cooking technologies that enable people to cook and heat their home in a way that is not harmful to their health and environment. By promoting the adoption of clean cooking technologies, we not only mitigate the negative effects on the environment but also improve the well-being of individuals and communities (particularly women and children), fostering a healthier and more sustainable future. SAARC Member States encounter numerous challenges in ensuring access to clean cooking, such as lack of enabling policy framework, acquiring financing (mainly green financing) and advancements in technology.

In this context SEC is organizing a knowledge sharing webinar on “Modern Clean Cooking Technologies for Rural Households” on 18th October 2024. The proposed webinar will discuss global trends in clean cooking technologies, improved cooking stoves, Solar cooking solution, financing clean cooking technologies, and policy framework. The Webinar shall feature presentations, and interactive discussion sessions led by resource person(s) from regional/ international market.

Objectives

The overall objective of this webinar is to create awareness on the importance and benefits of modern clean cooking technologies, available clean cooking technologies, and catalyze action for widespread adoption of these technologies. By fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, the webinar aims to empower individuals and communities with the information and tools necessary to make informed choices that benefit both their health and the environment.

¹ <https://www.irena.org/Publications/2023/Jun/Tracking-SDG7-2023>

² *Energy Challenges for Clean Cooking in Asia, the Background, and Possible Policy Solutions*, ADB 2019

³ <https://www.iea.org/reports/sdg7-data-and-projections/access-to-clean-cooking>

Major Aspects /Topics to be covered during the Webinar

The following aspects shall be covered in the webinar (but not limited to):

- Introduction to Modern Clean Cooking Technologies: A Global Overview
- Innovations in Improved Cookstoves & Solar Cooking Solutions for Sustainable Living
- Financing Modern Clean Cooking Technologies: Challenges and Opportunities
- Health and Environmental Impacts of Clean Cooking
- Policy Frameworks for Promoting Clean Cooking

Potential Professional Resource

During the Webinar, the experts/resource persons engaged for the purpose will deliver their presentations and respond to questions by the participants.

Venue of the Webinar

The webinar will be broadcasted from the office of SEC on Friday, 18th October 2024 from 1000 – 1200 hrs Pakistan Standard time (PKT).