

**ENERGY EFFICIENT RURAL FOOD PROCESSING UTILISING
RENEWABLE ENERGY TO IMPROVE RURAL LIVELIHOODS
(RE4Food) PROJECT**

Stakeholders Meeting

Date: December 4, 2013

**Venue: E-classroom, The Energy Centre, College
of Engineering, KNUST.**

Time: 9am-2:30pm

**Report on Stakeholders Meeting Held to Discuss the
Implementation of Work Packages 1-3**

Participants

S.No	NAME	ORGANISATION
1.	Prof. Ahmad Addo	The Energy Center, KNUST
2.	Mr. J.O. Akowuah	The Energy Center, KNUST
3.	Mr. Eric Essandoh	The Energy Center, KNUST
4.	Mr. Yaw Brobbey-Kyeremateng	The Energy Center, KNUST
5.	Dr. Olivia Agbenyega	The Energy Center, KNUST
6.	Prof. K. A. Dzisi	Agric. Engineering Dept
7.	Prof. Ato Bart-Plange	Agric. Engineering Dept
8.	Dr. J. O. Darko	Agric. Engineering Dept
9.	Mr. Prince Andoh	Premium Foods Limited
10.	Mr. Evans Peter Nsiah	Pens Food Bank, Ejura
11.	Mr. Mahama	Alliance Farms, Ejura
12.	Mr. Alex Sackey-Addo	World Vision
13.	Mr. Amoh Korang	Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Kumasi
14.	Mr. Obrien Nyarko	Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Nsuta
15.	Mr. Kwabena Ofori	Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Sunyani Metro
16.	Mr. Lawrence Krampa	Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ejura Sekyere Odumasi
17.	Mr. Joseph Kwame Ayamma	Maize trader, Ejura
18.	Mr. Bawa Issah	Maize farmer, Ejura
19.	Mrs. Joanna Echeruo	Faculty of Renewable and Natural Resources, KNUST.

Background

The renewable energy for food processing (RE4Food) project is aimed at utilizing renewable energy in the processing of food to improve rural livelihoods in Ghana. The overall objective of the project is to reduce post-harvest losses and improve food quality. The project is sub-divided into four work packages, with each package constituted by a series of task.

On the 4th of December, 2013, a stakeholder meeting was organized to seek technical support and guidance to ensure that the project achieves the desired impact, and is properly executed. The meeting was convened particularly to discuss how to implement the respective tasks of work package 1, 2 and 3 of the RE4Food project. The meeting served as an opportunity for stakeholders in the field to discuss their interest in specific aspects of the project activities and to familiarize themselves with the project. Stakeholders invited were selected from research institutions, universities, food processing outfits, traders, farmers and other government agencies.

AGENDA

1. Presentation on project overview and work package ahead
2. Review and development of data collection tools
3. Identification of institutions to support in the project's implementation
4. Next steps

Preliminary Summary

The meeting began at 900hr GMT, and was facilitated by Mrs. Joan Echeru, a specialist in moderating such events. Dr. J. O. Darko gave the opening prayer, after which the Director of The Energy Centre, KNUST, Prof. Ahmad Addo welcomed stakeholders to commence proceedings for the day. In his welcome address, he emphasized the need for maximum support from participating stakeholders to ensure the outcome of the project is beneficial to small and medium enterprises in Ghana. The chairperson for the occasion Prof. K. A. Dzisi. He was introduced by Miss Yaa Ampofowaa Kyeremateng, Publications Assistant at The Energy Centre, KNUST. In his opening remarks, he expressed appreciation for the honour done him to chair the occasion but

more importantly, he stressed the need for the stakeholder's invited to contribute immensely to ensure that, the purpose of the meeting was achieved.

After chairmans's open address, Mr. J. O. Akowuah, co-coordinator of the project kick-started the meeting by explaining the purpose of the gathering. He indicated, the meeting was to provide the opportunity on how to gather data, discuss needs, and identify real or perceived barriers, current and future developments which are expected to feed into work packages 1, 2 & 3 of the project. He brought clarity to what the work packages entail with a presentation on the general overview of the project and work that has been done so far. In a brief presentation, the coordinator explained that, the project's main aim was to undertake research that will support rural community business models on how to integrate low carbon and renewable energy into food processing, consequently optimising the process and minimising losses and waste in food value chains. The respective work packages as outlined below was also presented with a description on the associated tasks required to help execute the project to achieve the expected outcomes.

- Work Package 1: Evaluate and assess food chains
- Work Package 2: Rural food processing & renewable energy use
- Work Package 3: Innovative post-harvest food processing using renewable energies
- Work Package 4: Stakeholder Engagement, dissemination & knowledge transfer

The second part of the presentation looked at work that has been done so far in relation to the project. Mr. Joseph Akowuah indicated that, task 1.1 of work package one which is to identify a crop or product has been completed. At this point he informed the stakeholders gathered that, maize has been selected as the crop of interest for the project and went further to present on the

modalities that went into the selection of maize. He concluded his presentation by highlighting outstanding work packages, and the respective tasks to be executed. A planned schedule of activities, particularly, on the rest of work package one was presented for input.

Discussions

A period of 20 minutes was allowed for questions, comments and clarifications on the presentation. No specific questions, comments or clarification was sought by members. Rather, most of them indicated they were satisfied, and understood the issues as was presented.

After a coffee break of about 30 minutes, participants were divided into focus groups to deliberate on the issues at hand. The project coordinator explained the rationale behind forming the focus groups. He asserted that, this was very important since such groups were to:

- help identify a broad spectrum of expertise and institutions that can provide technical support and guidance in the project implementation so as to improve the outcomes;
- share experiences on similar projects conducted in the past to ensure the adoption of best practices from existing, and past interventions can be taken on board to help the project achieve the desired impacts;
- review developed questionnaires and make the necessary inputs.

In all, four focus groups were formed. The groups were tasked to review and make inputs into data collection tools developed for field survey, as well as provide technical guidance on type of data, mode of data collection, and more importantly, sharing of experiences of similar projects undertaken in the past, and bring to the fore some challenges and barriers encountered that may derail the progress of the project. This section lasted approximately seventy minutes.

Members queried the activities to tease-out issues regarding project implementation and made vital inputs into how the tasks was to be executed. Below are the outcomes of the focus groups discussions:

<u>Tasks/Activities</u>	<u>Focus groups input</u>
Task 1.1	<p>Explanation of task The coordinator explained that the task has been completed and report submitted.</p>
Task 1.2	<p>Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developed questions should be segregated into sections of maize production along the value chain (i.e. production, post harvest, processing, distribution). 2. Data collection on losses along the maize value chain should be by a two way approach: field data collection and use of questionnaires. This means, losses should be traced right from the farm to the point of consumption of the food. 3. The questionnaire should be the closed type for proper responses 4. Participants also suggested additional questionnaires be developed separately for maize processors and marketers 5. Also agric extension officers be trained to help in the administration of the questionnaire 6. It will be useful for the study to capture information on meteorological data in the target districts.
Task 1.3	<p>Recommendation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This task should be executed alongside task 1.2 2. A questionnaire should be used for the data collection 3. Identified respondents should be gender bias in terms of women
Work Package 2	<p>Recommendation The participants suggested firms or organizations that can help in the assessment regarding previous works, data collection and technical support. These organisation are seen below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E K A Food Processing Company, Sunyani • Yedent Agro-Processing-Sunyani • Josma Agro Processing Company <p>Other institutions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millennium Development Authority Secretariat (MiDA) • Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) • Samaritans Missionaries for Africa (Roman Catholic Maize Storage

	Facility) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Vision • Ghana Buffer Stock Company (NAFCO) • Crop Research Institute • Atwima Mponua Business Advisory Centre • Catholic Relief Service • International Food Policy Research Institute, Ghana • Techno Serve, Ghana • Ghana Grains Control • Ministry of Food and Agriculture • Food Research Institute • Agricultural Engineering Services Directorate • Nestle Ghana Limited • Crops Research Institute • Savannah Agricultural Research Institute
Work package 3	Recommendation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Techno-economic models that simulate the use of renewable technologies in food processing need to be identified and studied. 2. Site for the building of the innovative technology structure needs to be identified.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the stakeholders met the expected requirements with very important points and submissions. The presentations and deliberations were insightful. It also gave members the opportunity to scrutinize the planned activities and propose some implementation strategies. It was the wish of the participants that, this project is successfully implemented to provide opportunities for rural food processing in Ghana using renewable energy.

In the chairman's closing remarks, he thank the participants for attending the meetings and their important contributions. Dr. J. O. Darko gave the closing prayer.

Pictures

The pictures below were taking during the stakeholders meeting.



Picture 1: The moderator of the meeting interacting with members before the start o the meeting



Picture 2: Presentation on the project overview by the project coordinator during the meeting



Picture 3: A section of participants at the meeting watching and listening with rapt attention during a presentation by the coordinator of the project



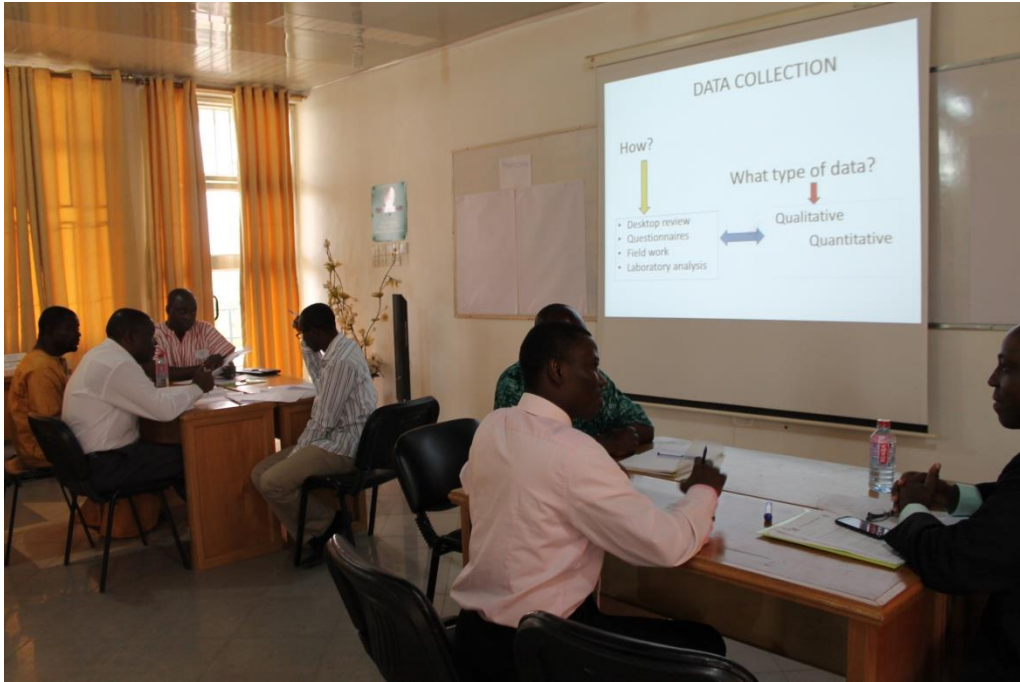
Picture 4: A participant making a contribution during the meeting



Picture 5: Members going through some documents that were presented for the meeting



Picture 6: One focus group team going through some of the questionnaires



Picture 7: Focus groups reviewing questionnaires and discussing data collection methods



Picture 8: Another focus group members deliberating on issues in the questionnaires



Picture 9: Another session of the focus group members deliberating on issues in the questionnaires



Picture 10: Another session of the focus group members deliberating on issues in the questionnaires



Picture 11: Another session of the focus group members deliberating on issues in the questionnaires



Picture 12: Another session of the focus group members deliberating on issues in the questionnaires



Picture 13: A member of one of the focus groups presenting on their recommendations



Picture 14: Contribution from a member from the Ministry of Food Agriculture



Picture 15: Some insightful contributions from a renowned post-harvest specialist – Dr J. O. Darko



Picture 16: The Moderator summarizing the presentation in a local language to some section of the participants