



**The Energy Center, KNUST**

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

**Report on stakeholder engagement and media documentary for  
knowledge transfer and dissemination of developed solar  
biomass hybrid dryer**

**October, 2016**

## **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 through the integration of renewable technologies for food processing in rural communities.

As part of strategies for the dissemination, adoption and promotion of the developed innovative solar biomass hybrid dryer, which seek to address post-harvest losses in maize and other food crops at the targeted area through efficient drying, various stakeholder events were organized to provide a means of building buy-in, knowledge transfer, and training on the best utilization of the dryer. These events were organized for the media, farmers, traders, NGO's, local food processors, local Agric officers and a local bank located in the study area.

## **Stakeholder Engagement Events**

On separate occasions, journalist from media houses including Luv FM radio, Multi TV and a local FM station, Today's FM; group of farmers, traders, aggregators, local food vendors and processors, Agric Extension Agents (AEA's) of the Ministry of Food Agriculture at Ejura were engaged to discuss the output of the project in relation to the developed 5-tonne capacity innovative solar biomass hybrid dryer (SBHD) constructed at Ejura. The events were organized to increase awareness and provide the platform to discuss the successful adoption of the SBHD and its potential to contribute to the reduction of post-harvest losses in maize production in the

targeted area. The opportunity for diversified livelihoods and socio-economic impacts of the developed innovative solutions to the beneficiaries in the targeted area was also discussed during such events. Participants from a local bank in the community also presented on opportunities for funding for farmer based organization/enterprises as well as private entrepreneurs interested to purchase their own dryers.

Three key objectives for organizing the stakeholder, dissemination and knowledge transfer events were:

- Awareness raising on the SBHD and the capacity to address the challenges in maize drying and other complementary food crops;
- Support for adaptation of the SBHD for drying of maize and other food crops in the targeted area
- Promote the adaptation of the innovative solution for maize drying in the study area.

### **Concluding remarks**

These events were successfully organized with a media documentary of the developed SBHD produced for the print, online and television media houses in Ghana. AEA's were also successfully trained in the dissemination and promotion of the SBHD in the targeted area. All the beneficiaries and potential users of the SBHD that participated in the events expressed satisfaction and happiness for the newly developed dryer and were encouraged to use the dryer for drying their crops to enhance it quality to gain premium prices on their produce. The farmers who were in cooperative organization were also encouraged to patronize the services of the rural bank for their production activities and also possibly owning their own drying facility. .

## PICTURES

The pictures below were taking during the various organized events.

### 1. Stakeholder engagement with Agricultural Extension Agents of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture at Ejura.

This event was to discuss issues post harvest losses of maize in the study area and strategies for the promotion and adaptation of the innovative solar biomass hybrid dryer



Picture 1: Engagement with Agric Extension Agents (AEA's) of Ministry of Food Agriculture, Ejura



Picture 2: Meeting with AEA's at Ejura



Picture 3: Group picture with AEA's after the workshop

## 2. Engagement with Leaders of Farmer Based Organizations/Enterprise (FBO/E) in study area

This meeting was held to discuss the challenges faced by farmers, traders and local food processors in the targeted area with respect to drying of their produce particularly maize after harvest. It was also a platform where the new dryer was presented to the farmers with respect to the advantages and opportunities available to them if they adopt it for drying their crops.



Picture 4: Discussions with some team leaders of FBOs in study area





Picture 5: Interaction with Mr Nsiah, General Manager of Pens Food Bank, Ejura at the meeting



Picture 6: Mr Nisah making a contribution during the meeting

### 3. Media tour and engagement with some farmers and traders in study the area

This event was organized to create awareness and support the dissemination as well as the promotion of the new solar biomass hybrid dryer through a documentary for the print media, online and television. One of the leading media houses in Ghana, LUV FM radio and Multi TV as well as a local radio station, Today's FM at Ejura were engaged for that purpose. Interestingly, the documentary was featured as one of the main items for TV broadcast by Multi TV during its Business News on the 2016 National Farmers Day Event in Ghana. This is an annual event organized to award hardworking farmers all over the country in solidarity to support their efforts. The links below lead to the online documentaries.

1. <http://www.myjoyonline.com/business/2016/October-31st/fighting-grain-loss-new-solar-biomass-hybrid-dryer-to-the-rescue.php>
2. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=-8ngw70K5Qs>



Picture 7: Interview with media men from Multi TV



Picture 8: Taking the media round the dryer at Ejura



Picture 9: Session of farmers present during the media briefing



## Participants/stakeholders

<b>S.No</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
1.	Mr. J.O. Akowuah	The Energy Center, KNUST
2.	Mr. Isaac Osei	The Energy Center, KNUST
3.	Miss Priscilla Obah Lateo	Research Scientist
4.	Mohammed Nurudeen	Multi TV
5.	Samuel Antwi	Luv FM
6.	Mr. Prince Andoh	Premium Foods Limited
7.	Mr. Evans Peter Nsiah	Pens Food Bank, Ejura
8.	Mr. Mahama	Alliance Farms, Ejura
9.	Mr Isaac Boakye	Agric Extension Agent, MoFA
10.	Mohammed Abdul Rashid	Maize Aggregator/Middleman
11.	Millicent Tanco	Local food processor/vendor
12.	Ibrahim Zakaria	Maize Aggregator/Middleman
13.	Jamong Monika	Maize farmer, Ejura
14.	Kombat Ali Sabtouluk	Maize farmer, Ejura
15.	Kwame Jabeng	Maize farmer, Ejura
16.	Joel Anati	Maize farmer, Ejura
17.	Jagri Stephen	Maize farmer, Ejura
18.	Mr. Joseph Kwame Ayamma	Maize trader, Ejura
19.	Mr. Bawa Issah	Maize farmer, Ejura
20.	Mr Kyeremanteng (Branch Manager)	Ejuraman Rural Bank
21.	Representative	Today's FM, Ejura