



How can vulnerability within the business be reduced?

Fuel Substitution National Stakeholders Workshop

Presentation by EAA Ltd

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Traditional Biomass Fuel Supply: 'a business that will not go away'

- Regardless of fuel substitution measures, people will continue to use wood and charcoal
- Many people will continue to be employed in this sector
- Even with sustainable biomass production, employment in this sector will continue to be characterised by vulnerability, unless coherent policies are put in place.
- Good policies will also address Negative gender impacts, but credit facilities will enhance women participation in the business.



Vulnerability Context (1)

External shocks & trends

- Seasonal fluctuations in demand & supply
 - ☞ Sustainable production of charcoal & improve road infrastructure
- Technological trends
 - ☞ Improved charcoal production processes will result to higher recoveries of charcoal per ton of wood
- Demographic trends - Rural to urban migration
 - ☞ Increased charcoal demand in the urban centres
- Natural disasters, e.g. flooding, drought
 - ☞ Difficult to make changes in this area, because these factors are beyond people's control



Vulnerability Context (2)

- 1) Develop/enforcement of charcoal policy to:
 - encourage efficiency at production, distribution, & end-use;
 - legitimise charcoal trade;
 - encourage sustainable charcoal production for local & export market.

- 2) Land policy e.g. to revisit land ownership/tenure regimes in order to:
 - encourage tree planting in trust lands;
 - encourage tree planting on private farms.



Enhancing Livelihood Assets

	Improvements	Vulnerability impacts
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased income • ability to save • access to credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit may allow purchase of labour-saving aids, e.g. donkey, vehicle, etc. • Savings can support household in times of low supply & demand.
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage space • Designated selling areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less frequent journeys, easy access to charcoal • Storage for times of shortage • Less scope for harassment for lack of licence
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business networks • Community groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective bargaining power re: prices and quality of wood & charcoal • Improved security (collection in groups) • Shared resources, e.g. vehicles
Human	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training will increase opportunities to pursue alternatives in times of low supply & demand, or when modern fuels replace traditional fuels.
Natural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantations • Sustainable production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage becomes less of an issue • Improved image of traditional fuel suppliers



Vulnerability – existing policy factors

BUT, in order for access to livelihood assets to be improved, and for improvements to be sustainable, changes need to take place at the macro level.

Policy (examples)	Vulnerability impacts
Restrictions on production and transport of wood & charcoal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Shortage of TF supplies•Potential for harassment and bribery.•Uncontrolled sector means that sacks often filled with dust or unburned wood•Suppliers are not reliable and meet many police road blocks.•Lack of storage facilities – journeys more frequent
Subsidies on kerosene, LPG & electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Consumer shift from TF to modern fuels????•Improved stove programmes = changes in consumption of TFS
Non-recognition of TF sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Lack of support mechanisms – low bargaining power•Perceived as low status occupation•No credit facilities are available

Recommendations



Short term

- Organisation of fuel supplier into groups
- Training/education programmes on eco-charcoal sources
- Clear definition and interpretation of laws governing the sector currently.

Long term

- Formalisation of TF sector;
- Development of National Biomass Energy Policy, - to guide production, supply and end-use conservation aspects;
- Sector need to be given prominence like any other sector of the economy;
- Enhanced dissemination of research findings on tree species. Efficient and effective kilning and end-use efficiency.