

Improved Household Cooking in the Millennium Villages



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Key Message

The **Millennium Village Project (MVP)** model recognizes that cooking practices, biomass composition, cooking practices and locally cooked foods vary by country and region and that all can impact a stove's fuel efficiency. We make efforts through CCTs, adaptability surveys and cooking investigations to contour our stove programs to **local contexts**.

By allowing a cook to take the stove home for 2 weeks prior to testing, she becomes familiar with the pros and cons of each stove and is better equipped to answer survey questions about adoptability. In the MVs we include questions like:

- Stove ranking
- Time / effort for tending
- Willingness to pay for stove
- Pot size



The Millennium Village Project – Household Energy, Biomass Cookstoves

Stove Program Mission: To reduce the time/labor burden of fuel collection on primarily women and children through the availability of fuel-efficient biomass cookstoves in the MVs.

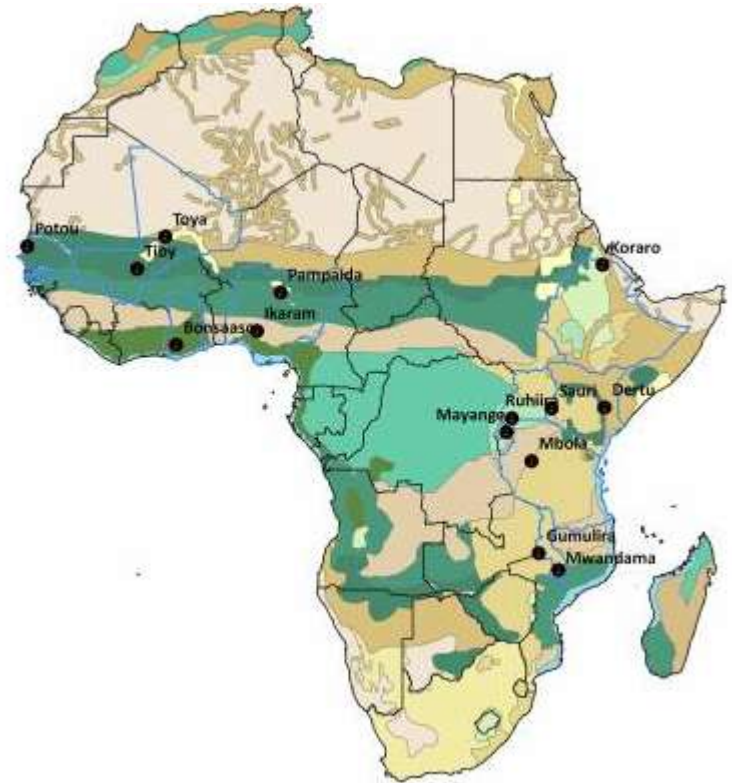
MVP Location: 14 sites in 10 countries

- CCTs conducted in: Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, Malawi
- Programs launched in Uganda (2009), Ethiopia (2009), Mali (2009), Nigeria (2010)

Partners:

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Millennium
Promise
Extreme Poverty Ends Here



Strategies and Approaches for Stove Promotion

- Stove “launches”
- Posters
- Ambassadors program
- Radio programming
- Cooking demonstrations
- Public controlled cooking tests (CCTs)
- Stove “loans” to cooks



Results and Impact

Results:

- Conducted CCTs and surveys in 8 sites across 7 countries to test local stoves, Envirofits, and StoveTecs against the three-stone fire
- Launched results-based household stove programs in 6 sites across 5 countries: Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mali, Uganda, and Nigeria
- Sold over 7,000 household stoves at a 0%-50% subsidy

Impact:

- Decreased fuelwood collection by up to 50% for over 6,000 households in the MVPs

CCTs, surveys, cooking investigations and follow up by MVP site teams leads to relatively accurate estimations of fuelwood used for cooking staple foods and biomass saved with improved cookstoves



Challenges and Solutions

Challenges:

- Supply Chains: The stove distributor must have access to efficient overland transport networks to create effective rural distribution systems - a big challenge in remote regions of Africa
- Warranties: Creating a system to honor warranties (after sales service)

Mitigation Strategies:

- Supply Chains: Developing relationships with stove manufacturers and local distributors, other regional NGOs help avoid excessive procurement delays
- Warranties: Providing a warranty ourselves, allowing people to return/exchange broken stoves. Documenting the breakage and talking with manufactures about improved stove design

Lessons Learned

- Not all stoves are made equally
- Size and form matter to adoptability
- Importance of testing under local conditions
- Allow women to test the stoves for several weeks
- Create a demand-driven price model
- Seasons and wood-availability affect demand
- Choosing reliable vendors is crucial
- Provide continuing technical assistance
- Create in-country partnerships

Key take-away: the benefits of improved cookstoves result from the improved fuel efficiency of the stove (CCTs), the frequency and duration of stove use (surveys), but also local cooking practices (cooking investigations.)



Future Plans and Goals

2011 Program Scale-Up:

- Scale-up current programs with a devoted staff member and increased funding, working with Millennium Cities Initiative (MCI) to scale to cities.
- Additional CCTs and surveys: Ethiopia, Rwanda, Haiti
- Additional stove programs: Rwanda, Haiti

Collaboration Opportunities:

- Improved business training opportunities and marketing through partnerships with local NGOs
- Carbon financing, working with manufactures, companies to develop carbon contracts (specifically for Nigeria, Uganda and Haiti.)
- Enhancing market-manufacturer linkages through partnerships with national-level distributors, in-country NGOs, and manufacturers.
- Information sharing (results of CCTs, surveys, etc) with research institutes, NGOs, manufacturers, distributors

