



SNV

Domestic Biogas Newsletter

SNV Netherlands Development Organisation

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Dear reader,

It is our pleasure to present to you the first issue of the SNV Domestic Biogas Newsletter. We intend to provide you every four to six months with a digital update of our activities in the field of domestic biogas and hope you will enjoy reading these brief reports.

Connecting People's Capacities

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More countries engaged in market-based domestic biogas programmes

Over 285.000 households benefit from biogas plants

The number of countries preparing and implementing market-based domestic biogas programmes is on the rise in both Asia and Africa. This table provides an overview of the unofficial number of biogas plants installed with SNV assistance in various countries by June/July 2009. The Biogas Support Programme in Nepal crossed the 200,000 units mark, congratulations to all parties involved. New programmes were also started in Pakistan (see below) and Indonesia.

In Rwanda, one of the major constraints to up-scaling was the lack of suitable credit facilities for prospective biogas households. With support of SNV, a loan agreement was concluded between the 'Banque Populaire du Rwanda', the Rwandan Ministry of Infrastructure and the Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) in May 2009 to support up to 15,000 households with credit opportunities.

Programmes in Kenya, Uganda, Burkina Faso and Senegal are being prepared, and are expected to initiate construction activities by the end of 2009 or beginning of 2010. These four countries, as well as Ethiopia and Tanzania, are targeted in the 'Africa Biogas Partnership Programme' which is co-financed by the [Netherlands Directorate General for International Cooperation \(DGIS\)](#) and SNV. [Hivos](#), a Dutch non-governmental not-for-profit development organisation has been assigned as manager of the DGIS fund for this Programme.

Country	Programme took off in	Cumulative number of plants
Nepal	1992	204,500
Vietnam	2003	67,300
Bangladesh	2006	7,800
Cambodia	2006	5,100
Lao PDR	2006	550
Rwanda	2007	280
Ethiopia	2008	110
Tanzania	2008	30
Total		285,670

Mid-Term Review of the Asia Biogas Programme

Towards sustainable domestic biogas sectors



The Asia Biogas Programme (ABP) consists of four country programmes, being Vietnam, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Lao PDR, and is co-financed by the DGIS since 2005. An external Mid-Term Review (MTR), conducted in 2008, stated that it takes time to mobilise and capacitate actors in the biogas sector, including constructors, credit providers and households. As a result, the originally set production targets proved to be too ambitious. Based on the results of the MTR, SNV in cooperation with the respective implementing partners in the countries elaborated on a revised plan for 2010-2012 which DGIS approved in August 2009. The total revised production target covering the entire period of the ABP up to 2012 amounts to about 210,000 digesters serving about 1.1 million people. Equally important, the countries will have made a significant contribution to the [development of commercially viable biogas sectors](#). The total required budget is estimated to be EUR 98.5 million out of which the households are contributing EUR 64 million (65%) in cash, kind or through a loan. The DGIS fund of EUR 12.9 million means a contribution of 13%, while (local) governments and various other donors are proposed to finance EUR 16.5 million (17%). The financing gap amounts to EUR 5.5 million (6%) for which additional funding and/or funders are being identified.

Domestic Biogas Programme in Pakistan

First SNV activity in this 'new' country



Despite a huge technical potential of about five million, the total number of biogas plants installed in the country remained very small, about 6,000 units by the end of 2006. In early 2007, UNDP Pakistan, Winrock International (WI) and SNV carried out a feasibility study for establishing a large-scale household biogas programme. Furthering on the findings of this study, an implementation document has been finalised by WI and SNV in 2008. This document details technological, organisational and institutional aspects for a national biogas programme, including an activity schedule and budget requirements. In January 2009, the implementation of the [Domestic Biogas Programme in Pakistan](#) was launched. The programme activities will initially take place in four provinces of Pakistan (Punjab, Sindh, NWFP and Baluchistan), supporting the construction of 30,000 installations over a period of four years. The main actors at the supply side are private biogas construction enterprises providing biogas construction and after sales service as well as MFIs providing credit to households. At the demand side, Rural Support Programmes organised under the [Rural Support Programme Network \(RSPN\)](#) will be engaged as the main implementing partners, supplemented by NGOs, farmers' organisations and dairy organisations. They execute important [programme tasks](#) that contribute to the sustainability of biogas activities, including awareness raising. In August 2009, RSPN signed an [agreement](#) with the Ministry of Environment of the Government of Pakistan for the facilitation of the implementation of the Domestic Biogas Programme.

Working Group on Domestic Biogas under the "Energy for All Partnership"

SNV plans for one million Asian households to access clean energy

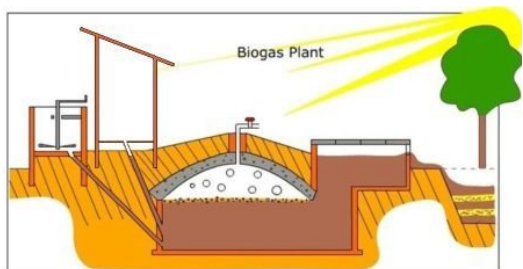


In June 2009, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched the 'Energy for All Partnership' that aims to provide access to modern energy to an additional 100 million people in the Asia-Pacific region by 2015. There are still 800 million people in the region without access to electricity, while 1.8 billion people rely on traditional biomass resources for cooking. In the framework of this initiative, SNV was invited by the ADB to lead a Working Group on Domestic Biogas. As a response, [a proposal was developed](#) for the installation of one million additional biogas plants in about fifteen potential ADB member countries by the year 2015/2016, providing access to sustainable energy to about five million people. In the new Partnership, which is receiving seed fund from the Government of The Netherlands, SNV intends to share its experiences on two decades of

supporting domestic biogas programmes with a large number of like-minded partners aiming to achieve greater impact in energy services and greater benefits for Asian households. A series of activities are planned ranging from feasibility studies to quality implementation. Through networking and joint learning, involving relevant stakeholders in Asia as well as experts around the world, supra-national synergies will be pursued to increase efficiency, effectiveness, innovation and accelerated growth of the sector. The first official meeting of the Working Group is planned during the International Workshop on Domestic Biogas, organised by SNV, on 10-12 November 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

International Workshop on Domestic Biogas from 10-12 November 2009 in Nepal

Maximising knowledge sharing on large-scale biogas dissemination



The dissemination of domestic biogas plants around the world is sharply rising, both in terms of numbers as well as geographic coverage. More than 35 million units have been installed by the end of 2008, most of them in China and India, providing about 175 million people access to the multiple benefits of biogas use. Equally important is that more and more countries around the world have embarked on market-based national programmes on domestic biogas. To efficiently and effectively utilise both public and private resources and to

prevent unnecessary failures, it is paramount to broker knowledge and experiences between the various parties involved. In this respect, SNV is organising an [International Workshop on Domestic Biogas from 10-12 November 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal](#), funded by both the Asian Development Bank through its Energy for All Partnership and SNV. The objective of the International Workshop is to exchange knowledge and experiences between practitioners, experts and policy makers on the dissemination of domestic biogas plants. A total of 150 persons from around the world are expected to participate in this Workshop. For more information, please view the Workshop's announcement [here](#).

For more information about the activities of SNV on domestic biogas, please contact Mr. Wim J. van Nes, e-mail: wvannes@snvworld.org. We would be grateful to receive your feedback on this first issue of the SNV Newsletter on Domestic Biogas through e-mail: domestic-biogas@snvworld.org

For more information on SNV, please visit our website: www.snvworld.org

SNV is dedicated to a society in which all people enjoy the freedom to pursue their own sustainable development. We contribute to this by strengthening the capacity of local organisations.

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