

Western University

Scholarship@Western

Business and Social Enterprise

Western Heads East

8-24-2012

Minutes of the meeting regarding biogas plant implementation at Sahuwa yogurt kitchen women's group – updates and way forward

Melissa Whaling

African Probiotic Yoghurt Network (APYN)

Esther Ghati

African Probiotic Yoghurt Network (APYN)

Maimuna Kanyamala

Mikono Yetu

Nashon Msafiri

EMEDO

Manon Lelievre

RONGEAD

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/whebussoc>

Citation of this paper:

Whaling, Melissa; Ghati, Esther; Kanyamala, Maimuna; Msafiri, Nashon; and Lelievre, Manon, "Minutes of the meeting regarding biogas plant implementation at Sahuwa yogurt kitchen women's group – updates and way forward" (2012). *Business and Social Enterprise*. 15.

<https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/whebussoc/15>

Minutes of the meeting regarding biogas plant implementation at Sahuwa yogurt kitchen women's group – updates and way forward

Date: 24/08/2012

Present: Melissa Whaling – APYN; Esther Ghati – APYN; Maimuna Kanyamala – Mikono Yetu; Nashon Msafiri – EMEDO; Manon Lelievre – RONGEAD

After exchanging about the biogas plant built at the Sahuwa kitchen, how it is working well so far and that the women of the group are satisfied so far about it, we went through the possible challenges that can occur for the kitchens in general such as water and waste availability and how they can be tackled.

Remarks from the APYN team about the practicality of the technology enabled us to see that it is easy for the women to use and appropriate for the group. And even if water was thought to be an issue initially it is actually ok since the women are sharing the fetching of water. Moreover, a well will be built in the area soon according to Maimuna. Regarding waste, the women are well organized and managed to feed the system properly. Now, we need to analyze better how they feed the biogas system, how they use the gas, when, how long... as it is the pilot group, as well as to support them to produce biogas in the most efficient way.

Payment back (revolving fund) of half of the cost of the plants: per se, it is possible and it makes sense for the women's group. However, we will need to study well the capacity of payment of the groups and obviously the modality. This led to discuss the challenges regarding production capacity among the kitchens to increase this production to increase their profit and so that they don't rely only on the support they get from supplying HIV patients. Better group organization, need of better marketing strategy and packaging, selling points in busy centers are topics to work on to increase sales and economic capacity of the groups.

APYN informed that about 6 new kitchens were going to be set up the coming months therefore there will be a total of 11 kitchens in Mwanza. Other kitchens exist in Kenya and Rwanda: this could be potential areas of extension of the project as well.

It was mentioned that in the "package" to start a kitchen, APYN provides the group with facilities for cooking that includes gas bottles and gas cooker, we could also think of how part of this cost could be used for or how it could include biogas plant material.

We discussed about, how through the women's group we could reach the community for technology dissemination, that biogas is a good way of sensitizing the people on environmental/energy issues, climate change, waste management...

We also discussed about the possibility of having interns from the university of Mwanza (SAUT), from Canada or other to study topics we lack information such as biological/technical (incl efficiency) of the biogas plant as well as marketing and financial aspects regarding the system. But also about marketing and sales for yogurt products.

Maimuna also informed that women and youth groups will be trained on the saving and credit; therefore these groups could also be target groups for biogas. Other activities linked to biogas could be to support groups in agriculture/gardens with the use of overflowing slurry.

Among women and youth, some should be selected to be trained as artisans to make biogas plants.

As a way forward especially in terms of fund raising we agreed on:

As we get more info from UWO, we can start writing research grant.

Launch the Project by the end of September and invite influent people, official people of the area to state the official start of the project, for communication/sensitization, fundraising.

In November, Bob and other from UWO will be coming to Mwanza, this will be an opportunity to have further discussion.