

CLEAN COOKING STOVES

Green initiative goes slow,
lacks support

Discussants suggest ways to promote it, nudge manufacturers to work also on solar stove



Speakers at the roundtable titled "IDCOL Improved Cook Stove Programme: A Roadmap to Cleaner Kitchen" at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday where they talked about better promotion of a high efficiency cooking stove to reduce indoor air pollution.

PHOTO:
STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to promote the use of improved cooking stoves as they save fuel, cut carbon emission and give a healthy kitchen environment to women and children who are mostly exposed to harmful indoor air pollution, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

"A study should be carried out to find out why some households are using ICS [improved cooking stoves] and some are not," said Ainun Nishat, professor emeritus at Brac University.

He made the observations at the roundtable titled "IDCOL Improved Cook Stove Programme: A Roadmap to Cleaner Kitchen" at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (IDCOL), a state-run financial institution, and The Daily Star jointly organised the discussion.

In 2014, IDCOL started an improved cooking stoves programme with help from the World Bank.

The objective of the programme is to reduce the use of cooking fuel and reduction of indoor air pollution by promoting supply of higher efficiency cooking stoves, as indoor air pollution contributes to 78,000 premature deaths a year.

Since then, it has replaced more than 1.3 million traditional cooking stoves with improved ones.

Improved cooking stoves are traditional stoves which deliver higher efficiency following some modification.

An ICS has a grate in the middle of its combustion chamber. Air enters through the grate helping charcoal formed during the burning of fuel wood to burn better.

Cooking in the first burner is done by the flames directly produced from fuel, while the second burner runs on hot flue gases coming

out of the first burner and the spent flue gases are led out of the kitchen through a chimney.

Asna Towfiq, country manager of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, said clean cooking was directly linked to many of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Clean cooking could directly deliver gains

- 89 percent of the population use biomass fuel in traditional stoves
- Indoor air pollution causes 85,000 deaths a year
- IDCOL helped install 1.3 million improved cooking stoves in 4 years
- IDCOL to disseminate 4 million more by 2021
- Annual 1.28 tonne wood saving per stove
- Annual cut in CO2 emission 2.15 tonne per stove

across 10 SDGs and contribute to an enabling environment for achieving the Agenda 2030.

"But the progress in adopting ICS is slow in every country not just in Bangladesh. So, people have to be made aware why they should use ICS," she said.

Prof Nishat asked IDCOL to work on the

potential on solar cooking stove instead of limiting itself to wood-burning ICS.

Mahmood Malik, chief executive officer of IDCOL, said the target of installing 1 million improved cooking stoves was achieved in January, two years ahead of a deadline.

He said IDCOL was taking the stove to the poorest of the country keeping the prices reasonable. The IDCOL programme was in 290 upazilas and would soon reach 490 upazilas, he said.

Six new stoves, which have more than 35 percent thermal efficiency, have been included in the programme whereas the thermal efficiency of traditional stoves was below 15 percent, Malik said.

Salehuddin Ahmed, an adjunct faculty of Independent University Bangladesh who moderated the discussion, said ICS was picking up very quickly and that the work of IDCOL deserved praise.

Prof Dil Afroza Begum, of the chemical engineering department of Buet, called for raising awareness about the importance of energy conservation through the media.

Salima Jahan, acting chairman of the Sustainable & Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), said SREDA would carry out a study this year to find out why ICS had not been accepted en masse.

Munawar Misbah Moin, managing director of Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Ltd, said there was a possibility that the target on ICS would be achieved.

M Khalequzzaman, senior adviser of German development agency GIZ, which helped install 25 lakh stoves through Bangladesh Bondhu Foundation, said a number of agencies were supplying improved cooking stoves. "But there is no coordination."

"Many parties are supplying stoves. But we

need to ensure that we supply stoves that are durable and are used by the people."

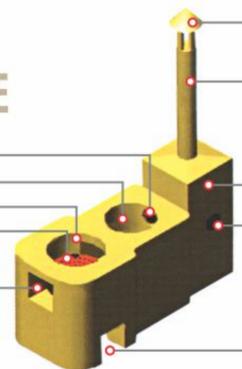
M Khaliqzaman, a consultant for the World Bank Dhaka office, said IDCOL has asked for money from the World Bank. The WB has agreed in principle to provide a new financing and is now preparing documents.

evidence of less emission of particulates and carbon monoxide from ICS compared to traditional stoves.

Mominur Rahman, associate professor of the chemical engineering department at Buet, said the university has developed hybrid stoves that could save fuel up to 80 percent, cut

IMPROVED
COOK STOVE

SMOKE ENTRANCE
SECOND BURNER
FIRST BURNER
GRATE
FUEL FEEDING HOLE



CHIMNEY CAP
CHIMNEY
CHIMNEY HOLDER
SOOT EXTRACTION HOLE
ASH EXTRACTION HOLE

Shaikh Abdul Halim, executive director of the VERC, an organisation promoting ICS, said communities have to be involved to spread the use of ICS.

Nasif Shams, assistant professor of the Institute of Energy at Dhaka University, said emphasis has to be given on maintenance as the conditions of stoves deteriorate without proper care.

Bilkis Ara Begum, head of chemistry division at Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, said a study showed significant

indoor air pollution up to 99 percent and increase efficiency by 43-105 percent.

SM Monirul Islam, deputy CEO of IDCOL, said the state-run institution has already carried out physical inspections of three lakh stoves out of the 13 lakh it has installed.

Reaz Ahmad, assignment editor of The Daily Star, said the issue touches a large number of people and it has to be ensured that women can cook in a healthy environment.

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ইডকল উন্নত চুলা কর্মসূচি

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খরচ কমে সুখ বাড়ে**

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