

# PROMOTION OF SOLAR COOKING ACTIVITIES IN ZIMBABWE

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## Current Work

Information services -	F. Shangwa, DTC (responding to letters, individual inquiries, phone calls).
Performance analysis of cookits -	N. Mhazo, T. Hove and I. Munyafe
Manufacture and promotion of fireless cookers -	F. Shangwa, DTC
Responding to invitations from NGOs -	F. Shangwa, DTC
Exhibitions at shows and Science & Technology-Symposia.	F. Shangwa and I. Munyafe
Monitoring and assisting business units -	F. Shangwa, DTC
Local demonstrations -	F. Shangwa, DTC
Compiling new recipes from users -	F. Shangwa, DTC

## Successes

- Improved image solar cookers as an alternative cooking method as local council bylaws against cutting down of trees get stiffer.
- Developed a technique for solar cooking sadza.
- Improved handling of plastic bags.
- Use of Cookit for pressing linen.
- Established 4 functional BUs out of an initial 8.
- Developed a recipe book.
- Distributed 10 000+ Cookits since 1996

## Constraints

General shortages of resources for extension activities.

- reduced home visits
- failure at times to attend invitations

Limitations of the panel cooker capacity and construction material

- cardboard material viewed as a cheap product.
- Less durability compared to other models e.g. parabolic cooker, box cookers.

### **Way Forward**

Consolidation of collaborative work with other organizations.

- Mukuvisi Woodlands
- Humana People to People.

Spreading solar cooking technology to occupied commercial farms.

- reduce the rampant cutting down of trees
- provide access to safe drinking water for farm workers as original water reticulation systems have been vandalized.

Focus on the use of solar cookers for pasteurization of water in urban areas.

-Local town authorities are failing to provide safe drinking water due to shortages of forex to procure chemicals

Training programs in the manufacture of fireless cookers.

Continued encouragement of solar cooks to use cookers regularly.

- the art gets perfected with practice
- new recipes are developed

Introduction of different designs of solar cookers to meet different user desires.

Introduction of other energy saving technologies that complement solar cooking

Continued review of CooKit prices.

Adoption of the CooKit as a science teaching aid in schools.

### **Vision 2010**

DTC would work towards reduced levels of cutting down of trees and waterborne diseases as a result of increased and improved usage of solar cookers and other related technologies.

Government policy on development of renewable energies.

### **What works in the promotion of solar cookers.**

- Participation of the government.
- Involvement of local leadership has got to be assured from the onset.
- Promoters should be well trained, have interest, be enthusiastic practitioners - teach from experience and have patience.
- The truth about what the solar cooker can do and what it cannot do must be made clear.
- Users must be encouraged to practice and experiment with solar cookers.

### **Stocks, Sales and Costs**

CooKits (cooker + 2 plastic bags) in stock	=	500
Plastic bags	=	500
CooKits sales in		
2003	=	909
2004	=	114
CooKit price in 2003	=	Z\$5 000
CooKit price in 2004	=	Z\$10 000 (USD 1.79)
Plastic bag price 2004	=	Z\$2 000 (USD 0.36)

