

USE OF THE COOKKIT BY HANDICAPPED WOMEN IN MALI



Solar Cookers Conference Granada
2006

The presentation consists of 4 parts:

- 1) KoZon, our organization in the Netherlands
- 2) our partners in Mali
- 3) an example of a CookKit training, in this case training of deaf-mute women
- 4) A few visits to handicapped women who use their CookKits



To cook with the CookKit you need:

- a CookKit made of cardboard and aluminum foil
- a black pot, volume 4 à 5 liter
- a thermo-resistant plastic bag.

About the CookKit:

Developed by Roger Bernard and Solar Cookers International

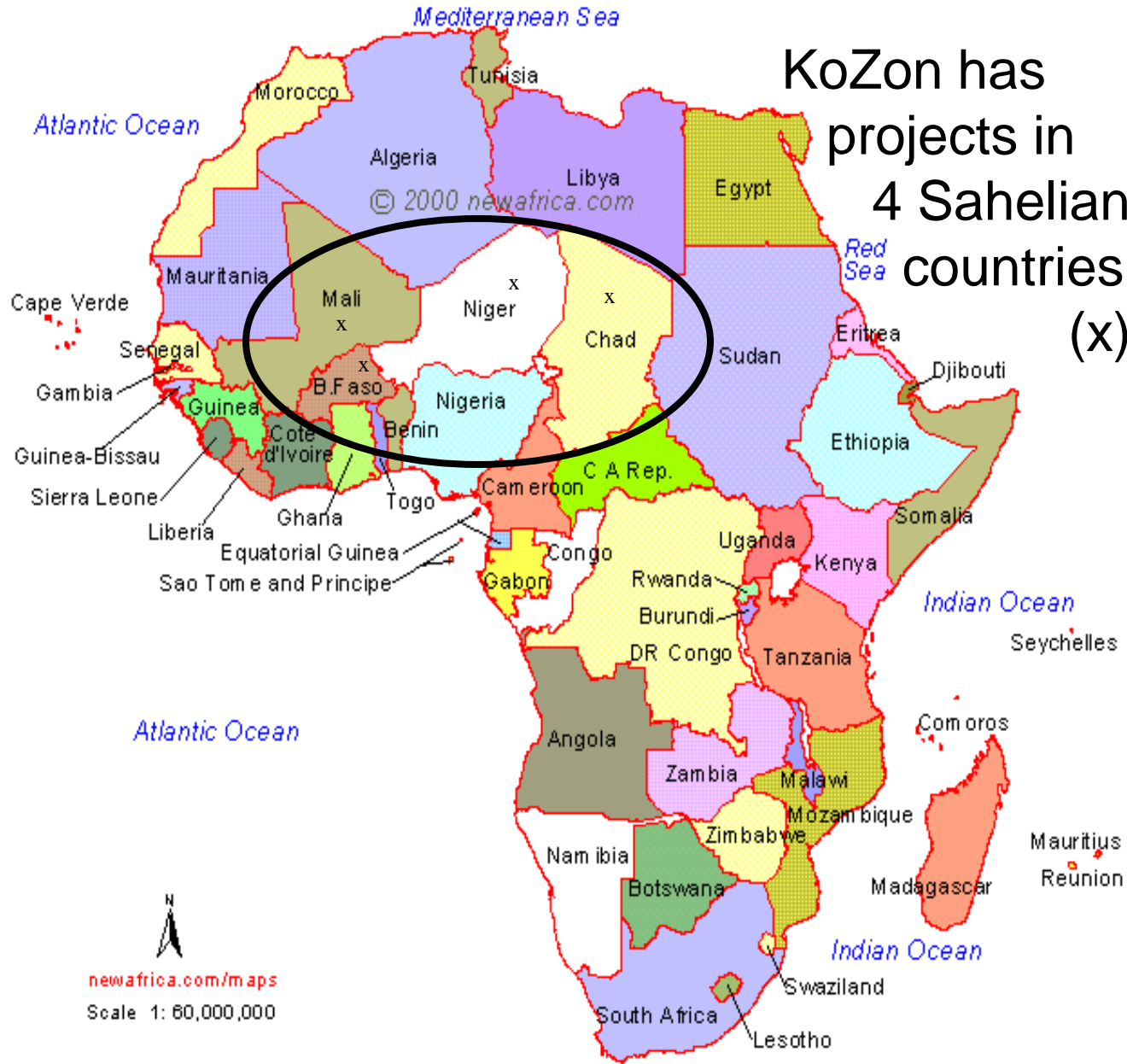
Why KoZon works with the CookKit:

- 1) **Cheapest available** solar cooker in Africa (with pot and 2 plastic bags 10-15US\$)
- 2) **Light and foldable**. Folded it can be stored in a cotton bag and be hanged on the wall or the rafters (against termites)
- 3) **Everything can be cooked** in it, with a good sun (except frying)
- 4) **Food does not burn**, orientating it every 15 minutes is not necessary
- 5) **Easy to copy!** In all 4 countries CookKits are produced locally.



**KoZon
Foundation**
(Cooking with
the energy of
the sun)

We are all
volunteers, a
board of 5
persons and a
few advisors



KoZon has
projects in
4 Sahelian
countries
(x)

where, like in most African countries, 95% of
the population cooks their food on a woodfire

OUR FIRST PARTNER IN MALI SINCE 2001 IS THE
AFIMA
(Association des Femmes Ingénieurs du Mali)



AFIMA members make the CookKits and give demonstrations all over Mali. For their PR they use television and radio.





Television team takes video during CookKit demonstration.

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Our second partner: AMAFH

(Association Malienne des Femmes Handicapées)



Hatouma Djikine Gakou

Ina Zeïneb Guisse

Both now 45 years old, they met each other at high school, were the only 2 girls in a wheelchair and became friends for life

They created AMAFH in 1991 and cooperate intensively with all Handicap NGO's in Mali. AMAFH is extremely well organized.

Cooperation AMAFH-KOZON since December 2004

AMAFH members saw an AFIMA solar cooking demonstration on TV

2004-2006:

- 6 two-day trainings in the use of the CookKit
- 188 handicapped women trained (motoric/polio cases 140/blind18/mute-deaf 30)

AMAFH writes a project

KOZON seeks donors

AMAFH organizes the training

AFIMA gives the training, and supplies handmade CookKits

Pending: 30 more deaf-mute women,
40 leproses, 20 mentally handicapped,
120 handicapped men



At the first AMAFH-AFIMA demonstrations
one cookit was provided

But participants asked for **TWO COOKITS**

WHY ?

one for the rice
and one for the
(meat)sauce.

and

If used for selling
foodstuff: larger
quantity to sell



KoZon now provides 2 CookKits for every participant.

Why CookKits given away?

CookKit +pot in Bamako costs 14 US\$

Often women receive per day from their husbands only \approx 2US\$ to feed >10 persons, firewood included, savings hardly possible, a few cents

Everything is bought in little bits

CookKit is not a tool that you can always use when you need it (weather, evening)

Though as the CookKit is gradually accepted, we ask a little sum from participants, but not yet from handicapped participants



CooKit training for deaf-mute women

Sign language

How to fold and unfold a CooKit



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CookKit training for deaf-mute women, cont.

Sign language: explication why pot has to be black and why a thermo-resistant plastic bag is necessary



CooKit training for deaf-mute women, cont.

Sign language: Preparing ingredients to put in the pots



CooKit training for deaf-mute women, cont.

Putting the pots in the cookers



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CooKit training for deaf-mute women, cont.

Tasting the solar cooked food



CooKit training for deaf-mute women

The end of the 2-day training

Each participant receives
2 Cookits + pots and bags



Thanking the organizers



Visits to handicapped CookKit users

Ina was helped out of the car and pushed inside by her chauffeur.



Visits to handicapped CookKit users, cont.

Doussou Coulibaly is blind, when there is sun she uses her 2 Cookits twice a day.



Visits to handicapped CookKit users, cont.

Mariam Siby, polio victim, she hardboils eggs in CookKit 1, to sell them. Behind her is her small local cosmetics shop.

CookKit 2, in which she is cooking meat sauce, is at home.



Visits to handicapped CookKit users, cont.



Solar cooked cakes, cut in pieces to be sold in schools



Oumou Tunbo, both her legs are supported by braces

Since she cooks in the CookKit people in the area know her and come to see her, she is not an unknown woman anymore.

It seems that members of AMAFH have accepted the CookKit as being a useful tool

Advantages for handicapped women:

- you don't have to move so much when working with it
- no risk of burns or accidentally causing a fire (*reasons why handicapped girls are often not allowed to help with cooking*)
- proud that, that even as handicapped persons, they can also help in preserving the environment
- cooking with solar energy gives handicapped women a status in their community.



Next question:

Is the CookKit really adopted by the handicapped women?
Will it become a **fixed tool** in their households?



An evaluation should be carried out after 2 or 3 rainy seasons i.e. October / November 2006 or 2007 to see if, weather permitting, solar cooking is included in their daily planning.



Thank you for your attention!

Wietske Alma Jongbloed

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