



# SOLAR COOKING NEWS

Volume 8 - December 2013



## SHE TRUSTS THE SUN

**Fikirte Regasse Beyene is driven by her wish to work with the people in the Ethiopian rural areas to improve their quality of life. An excellent coordinator who was born and bred in Ethiopia. In March 2012 she started as project officer Integrated Solar Cooking at HoA-REC and SCN anchorwoman. It is fantastic that we can count on her expertise!**

"It is my mandate to implement and promote the Integrated Solar Cooking (ISC) component of the larger scale EU 'RET project', that will provide Ethiopia with twenty sustainable energy centres." RET stands for Renewable Energy Technology. The project will provide thousands of rural area households with sustainable renewable energy. This will gradually reduce dependence on wood as a source of energy. SCN is a partner in this ambitious project and therefore delighted to have this very capable woman on the spot to coordinate ISC.

## OTHER TOPICS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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- Financial accounts 2013
- New board member Debberah ten Velthuis
- New funds needed for 2014!

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# ETHIOPIA

...continued

Fikirte travels regularly to the areas where the RET centres will be set up and works on the centres' capacity building, on cooking appliances improvements as well as on ISC promotion through training in the various communities. She links up with EU project management and with end-users who for many years have cooked with wood.

"I believe in solar energy. And we have it in abundance! It can have a tremendously positive impact on the environment and on the lives of women, girls and young children. Especially when it is introduced in the rural areas on a large scale. No more daily carrying of bundles of wood, no more breathing in of wood fumes at cooking times and enough time for the children to go to school instead of preparing meals."

She sees major opportunities for the various solar cooking methods (the CookIt, the hay basket, the wapi and the wood-saving stove), because experience teaches her that women are quick to adopt these new methods. She also observes a changing attitude among men towards cooking. "Ultimately, I would like to see ISC cooking techniques in the cities as well. It truly is a future-proof way of preparing food."

The twenty production and training centres cover six districts throughout the country. Construction started this autumn and will be completed in January. Two women and one man are being trained in ISC production, promotion and marketing for each centre, i.e. Fikirte, together with four trainers from HoA-REC partner PISDA, teaches these techniques to a total of sixty people. We wish them all the best of luck!



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## ENTHUSIASM IN AWURA AMBA



Clara Thomas' working visit in October last, produced a nice update from Awura Amba, the self-sufficient community in Northern Ethiopia. Their ISC project was started a year ago. The entirely local style workshop was ready in four months! Start of production had been planned for 1st September 2013 but that didn't happen because of delays in the delivery of e.g. cardboard. Much to the disappointment of the village that was highly motivated to start production, marketing and sales.

Our partner ORDA will do its utmost to start production in January 2014. Meanwhile, a small local team has been trained in ISC production. The 2014 business plan is ready and the villagers have attended a cooking workshop. The wife of the village chief is quick to grasp the advantages: "Many vitamins and nutritional value are lost when stirring food on a fire. Food that is steamed in the CookIt and finished in the hay basket is healthier."

# BENEATH THE SUN

## NEW ENERGY IN ARSI NEGELE

Hidden in the beautiful green Rift Valley in Southern Ethiopia, lies Arsi Negele, a community where our partner Anceda is very much involved in sustainable projects. SCN participates in the planting of Moringa and Jatropha trees. This year, 30,000 seedlings of both species have been grown. More advanced saplings have been planted and serve as hedges around small plots of land. After some years, the nuts of these bushes will provide oil that can be used as cooking fuel. This is in fact some of type of wood saving.



## MEN ENGAGED IN COOKING

Anceda has provided some fifty families with CookKits as well. The men turned out to be very interested in this clean cooking method. Mr. Dekebo, Anceda's director, is very pleased with this development: "Solar cooking has an emancipating effect; it is easy to learn which encourages men to start cooking." To further develop this project, funds are needed and we would like to appeal to you.



## NO CHINESE COOKING APPLIANCES IN ETHIOPIA

The large-scale marketing of locally handmade solar cooking appliances continues to be an intractable process. The world organisation Global Alliance of Clean Cookstoves (GACC) is actively disseminating millions of Chinese-made wood-saving cooking appliances in African and Asian countries. This hampers the local commercial development of solar and other energy-saving cooking appliances that is in full swing. Because of this, the Ethiopian government has asked GACC not to deploy its activities in Ethiopia. SCN fully agrees with this decision.



## NEW CENTRE IN UGANDA

No later than last year we spoke of two separate projects, i.e. Kampala and Mbarara, but this year we are able to refer to one concerted plan! Together with our partner SCA (Solar Connect Association) in Uganda, we decided in August of this year to wholly integrate the ISC activities in both regions. It is going to be a small-scale business with a social character, also called a 'social business'. During board member Henk Crietee's working visit in August, the 'social business plan' was completed and plans for the next few years were elaborated. The plan includes the establishment of a new Renewable Energy Centre in Biharwe, not far from Mbarara. The land has already been purchased!

## ...CONTINUED

For the time being, Integrated Solar Cooking remains the main point of interest for the new centre, but the idea is to make room for other forms of sustainable energy in the future. The present production and promotion facilities in Mbarara, which are far too small, will be transferred to this new centre. The new ISC production and information centre will be totally self-sufficient in 2 to 3 years but at this stage it still needs extra funds, in particular for the financing of the centre's necessary investment costs. We hope to appeal to our faithful donors for this.



# UGANDA



## THE MAN BEHIND SCA IN UGANDA

**Kawesa Mukasa is the director of SCA in Uganda and works closely together with SCN to make 'Integrated solar cooking' available to people in rural Uganda. We would like you to get to know him, his work and his goal in life. He wrote such an enthusiastic mail in answer to our questions that we would like to share some of it with you.**

*Dear SCN donors,*

*My name is Kawesa Mukasa and I am the Director of Solar Connect Association, Uganda since 1994. I am a graduate of Fribourg University in Switzerland in Economics and Environmental Economics. I first learned about solar cooking during an open music festival in a village called Flik near Basel. I could not believe to see the sun bake cakes and cook fish. In 1991 I took a CookKit to Uganda and demonstrated it. People were very impressed. I completed my studies and decided to come back to Uganda to make a small contribution to the sustainability of our beautiful forests and empower rural women and girls to have a better livelihood and health. Cooking food is an essential event that should not be dangerous.*

*SCA's start in the 1990s was difficult. We started small and did not really have the professional know-how. But things started changing rapidly for the better when we entered into partnership with SCN. We have learned about solar techniques, project management, how to turn a non-profit project into a profitable organisation and how we can train and convince end-users through sound marketing. Even European tourists come to see our work!*

*I look forward to our cooperation in the new centre in Biharwe. The construction and subsequent production will provide jobs for around ten building workers as well as for ten more women in addition to those fifty that already have jobs with us. More and more people start to believe in our products! One man burned his tongue on a piece of meat because he could not believe that the CookKit can cook meat.*

*A young mother appreciated the 'water pasteuriser' (WAPI) because it indicates when the water is safe to drink and to cook food for her baby. And last but not least wood-saving: no more lugging, it saves time and preserves forests!*

*I could give many more examples but let me conclude as follows: thanks for enabling us to do this work with SCN's expertise and your support as well as that of Wilde Ganzen!*

*Sunny greetings from Kawesa Mukasa.*

*scacooking23@gmail.com*

## HOW WAS YOUR MONEY SPENT IN 2013?

The fundraising action at the end of last year was very successful! Our sincere thanks. By autumn of this year the situation was as follows: the amount of small donations (<500 Euro) added up to 5,300 Euro. Large donations (>500 Euro) altogether nearly reached 68,000 Euro by October! The money was spent as follows on the splendid work of our partner organisations in Ethiopia and Uganda:

### ETHIOPIA

HoA-REC – Annual SCN contribution to the EU Renewable Energy Project	€ 9,760
HoA-REC –Expenses SCN representative Ethiopia	€ 7,700
ORDA – ISC Project Awura Amba	€ 11,557
ANCEDA - Additional ISC Jatropha/Moringa Project, Arsi Negele	€ 1,100

### UGANDA

ISC production, distribution, promotion and training	€ 13,157
ISC resource and service centre Biharwe	€ 28,418
Land purchase for construction of ISC service centrum	€ 11,052



## SATISFYING GRIFTSTEEDE ACTION

City farm and recreation area Griftsteede in Utrecht celebrated the harvest festival on 22 September and shared its abundance of fruit and vegetables with its visitors. SCN was present with information materials and received a lot of attention. Entrance was free, but visitors were invited to donate to our foundation. We received no less than 650 Euro! Griftsteede, many thanks!

## WE DON'T MANAGE ALL THIS SINGLE-HANDED

### 10 YEARS FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM WILDE GANZEN

SCN wouldn't be able to keep up its activities without continuous financial support from Wilde Ganzen. Wilde Ganzen has since December 2003 honoured the practically annual requests by NGOs from Uganda, Ethiopia and SCN as well. In Ethiopia Wilde Ganzen has contributed to the increasing public awareness of the usefulness of sustainable energy and techniques for the cooking of daily meals, which has grown tremendously. In Uganda, Wilde Ganzen has each year since 2007 substantially backed the development of ISC initiatives in Mbarara and Kampala. The market is growing, as is the demand for cooking appliances. Because of this and with Wilde Ganzen's support a lot of effort is put into the development of the new production and distribution centre in Biharwe. We are very pleased that we can still count on Wilde Ganzen. Our sincere thanks!

[www.wildeganzen.nl](http://www.wildeganzen.nl)



### KOZON IN WEST AFRICA

Foundation KoZon, as does SCN, focuses on Integrated Solar Cooking. It has been active in West African countries for 15 years. We are going to intensify our cooperation with KoZon. Next to a business approach, the creation of ISC Knowledge and Service centres in East and West Africa will have priority. For more information: [www.kozon.org](http://www.kozon.org)

## OTHER COOPERATION PARTNERS



Horn of Africa  
Regional Environment  
Centre and Network  
[www.hoarec.org](http://www.hoarec.org)



## NEW BLOOD ON THE BOARD

This past summer our Board welcomed a new addition. Debberah ten Velthuis uses her knowledge and expertise to further professionalise ISC's work. An interview with the new board member.



### Who are you?

My name is Debberah ten Velthuis, I am 32, environmental scientist and businesswoman with Zúna, Green Business.

### What motivates you?

Beautiful nature and strong people motivate me to create a better environment. In particular in those countries where challenges are major such as in Africa.

### What do you do?

Zúna wants to support local entrepreneurs in Africa to create small businesses that provide families with better cooking and lighting products. This will reduce wood, charcoal and kerosene consumption as well as stimulate the use of more sustainable products. Good for health, time, money and the environment!

### Why SCN board member?

SCN is passionate about its work and has ambitious objectives. What's more it has a lot of knowledge and experience in the promotion and marketing of more sustainable cooking methods by locally created businesses. Because of my work experience in one of the Ethiopian businesses, I feel very connected with SCN.

### What do you want to achieve with SCN?

I would like to increase SCN's activities by building more local businesses. I want to stimulate the business approach so that future businesses will become independent rapidly. And if I may just dream a little; perhaps in the future add sustainable lighting to the cooking expertise? We'll see!

# YOUR HELP IS STILL NECESSARY!

It would be a tremendous boost for SCN and our partners in East Africa if last year's successful fundraising could be repeated or even surpassed. We have already received the first requests from our partners for the financing of existing and newly to be developed ISC projects. The following amounts are needed for current projects:

### ETHIOPIA 2014

HoA-REC – Annual SCN contribution to the EU Renewable Energy Project	€ 9,760
HoA-REC – Expenses SCN representative Ethiopia	€ 8,500
ORDA – ISC Project Awura Amba	€ 19,500
ANCEDA - Additional ISC Jatropha/Moringa Project, Arsi Negele	€ 1,500

### UGANDA 2014

Construction of the new SCA Renewable Energy Centre in Biharwe	€ 15,000
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An urgent appeal to all of you: with your contribution we can help more East African households cook with the sun, while being environmentally responsible and save wood. All amounts, small or large, are welcome! We bank with Triodos Bank, account no. **NL06 TRIO 0254 7056 34** in the name of Solar Cooking Foundation The Netherlands.

Triodos  Bank

### COLOPHON

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**Patron:** Herman Wijffels **Board:** Clara Thomas (chairwoman), Marjan Hermans (secretary), Henk Criete (treasurer), Debberah ten Velthuis (board member) **Staff members:** Jolien Hessel, Jacomine Immink, Denise Schwirtz, Ton de Wit, Jan de Wit **Advisors:** Arnold Leufkens, Maarten Schröder, Marjo Vervoorn **Editorial staff newsletter:** Clara Thomas (text), Henk Criete (text), Rian Lanenga (text and final editing), Daisy van Tussenbroek (design), Lianne Faili (English translation)

